

JANUARY – MARCH 2014

Calendar of the General Council and Directors of Secretariats

2 – 5 January: Provincial Chapter Province Madagascar – Antonio Ramalho

4 January: Meeting of the support group for the community of L'Hermitage – Javier Espinosa

4 – 8 January: Provincial Chapter Province Nigeria – Ernesto Sánchez

12 – 21 January: Visit to the Marist communities in Kinshasa and Kisanгани, Dem. Rep. of Congo – Mario Meuti (FMSI)

13 – 18 January: Workshop on sexual abuse for the "Cono Sur," Limache

15 January: Beginning of the Program for Formators in El Escorial and Manziana (until 3 November)

15 – 16 January: European Marist Mission Team, Valladolid – João Carlos do Prado and Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera

16 – 24 January: Meeting of the Permanent Council of the CIAP, Bogotá

16 – 18 January: Meeting of the General Councils of the Marist Family, Nemi

20 January: Beginning of the Plenary Section of the General Council, Rome - Until 28 February

23 January: Regular Council

27 – 31 January: Meeting of the General Council with the Formators in Manziana and El Escorial

30 January: Meeting of the Educational Commission of UISG/USG and the Congregation for Education of the Holy See



2 February: Meeting of the sub-commission of Brothers Today

5 – 7 February: Meeting of the General Council with the Directors of the Secretariats

8 February: Board MIUC, Nairobi – Joe Mc Kee

10 – 12 February: Meeting of the Conference of Superiors of Africa, Nairobi – Joe Mc

Kee

13 – 17 February: Meeting of the co-directors of the Secretariat of the Laity, Rome – Javier Espinosa

10 – 14 February: Meeting of the Commission of New Models of Animation, Management and Government, Rome - Miguel Ángel, Víctor Preciado and João Carlos do Prado

18 February: Regular Council

26 February: Meeting of FMSI staff, Rome

2 – 8 March: Formation Meeting for directors of Africa – preparatory commission, Nairobi - Mario Meutti and João Carlos

3 – 12 March: Meeting for provincial secretaries and archivists – English speaking, Rome – General Secretary

17 – 21 March: Preparatory Commission for the II International Marist Mission Assembly, Rome - Miguel Ángel, Javier, Cesar Rojas and João Carlos

26 – 29 March: Meeting about the relationship between Brothers and Laity, Rome.



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On 4 January, the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage met with their accompaniment team composed of Mayte Ballaz and Brs Brendan Geary and Javier Espinosa.

Br Ernesto Sanchez is representing the General Council at the Provincial Chapter of Nigeria from 4 to 8 January.

From 12 to 21 January, Br Mario Meuti, Director of FMSI, will be visiting Marist projects at Kinshasa and Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

WWW.MARISTVOCATIONS.COM

Marist Vocations Website goes Live

One of the major goals the Vocations team set for itself this year was to create a dedicated vocations website to promote our Brothers' way of life to young people. We're pleased to announce that the website is live.

This has been the fruit of several months' work, in collaboration with the Brothers' Vocation Reference Group. Special thanks to Liam Desic from the Marist Youth Ministry team in Brisbane, for creatively designing the layout of the text and images.

A couple of remarks for those interested in clicking on the website:

* it's primary aim is to promote the Brothers' way of life with a focus on each stage of formation.

* it is designed for young people. Information on the province and our ministries is therefore brief.

* there is a strong emphasis on the visual with a focus on the younger members of the province. The intention here is to connect with/appeal to the age group we are hoping to interest.

* the content provides some information about who we are, our spirit and way of life with links to our key

ministries. There will be an eventual link to the Province website.

As you will see, it is a work in progress with videos, interviews and individual testimonies yet to be finalised and uploaded. This will be done in the new year. The information of our new Healy House of Discernment will be updated as well.

Navigating the website will take time and practice but hopefully you'll be able to find where to access information.

Greg McDonald e Rod Thomson
www.maristvocations.com



PROVINCE "BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE"

Perpetual profession of Brother Edvaldo Ferreira

Brother Edvaldo Ferreira celebrated his perpetual profession on 14 December, in the parish of Santa Teresinha, in Bacabal, Maranhão, in the presence of his parents, friends and confrères of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte. During the Mass, he consecrated himself in a definitive way to religious life by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Brother Wellington Medeiros, Provincial, who presided at the rite of profession, invited the Brother to take up the charism received from Saint Marcellin Champagnat, his founder, and make his own the spirit of the Institute characterised by the virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty.



Br Edvaldo commenced his provincial journey in 2002 when he joined the prepostulancy. He did his postulancy in the city of Vila Velha / ES from 2003 to 2005. He entered the novitiate at Maranguape in 2006 and took his first vows there at the end of 2007. From 2008 to 2010, he made his scholasticate, a period of study and formation in Marist ministry, at Belo Horizonte. Since 2011, Br Edvaldo has been living in Iguatu, Ceará, where he works in the pastoral activities of the parish and diocese, and co-ordinates pastoral ministry in the Champagnat Marist School of Iguatu.



TYPHOON HAIYAN

PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY

Collaboration of FMSI and SAGIP KA 2000 Foudation

Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) hit the Philippines with a wind velocity of 305 kph in early November 2013. From the Pacific Ocean, it made its first landfall at Guian (Samar) and continued on to hit Tacloban, capital of the province of Leyte, a major City in the Central Visayas.

The Provinces of Leyte and Samar are considered the poorest areas in the Philippines because they are dependent on agriculture, mostly coconuts and rice, with no factories. People are also dependent on small scale fishing. They are also often visited by typhoons.

The people of Leyte are used to typhoons but they did not expect Yolanda to wreak as much havoc as it did. Because of the strong wind, it created pressure on the waters of the Gulf of Leyte causing strong storm surge. Three big waves as high as a two-storey building struck the shores of Tacloban City. The poor people living along the shore were greatly affected. The estimated number of deaths is close to 10,000. More are missing. Some are not yet buried because no relatives are claiming the corpses.

Houses, business establishments, schools, churches, government buildings, power lines, were all destroyed. Almost two months after the incident, a lot of debris remains uncollected.

International aid came from the United Nations, Unicef, European Countries, Oceania, Japan, South Korea, USA, etc. They offered medical services, relief goods, clearing up operations, psychological de-briefing, etc.

The Typhoon caused a lot of destruction not only in Tacloban City but all over the Provinces of Samar and Leyte. There are places that have not been reached by aid because they are far from the center of the City.

Jaro is around an hour from Tacloban. The Oblates of Notre Dame, a congregation of Sisters founded by Bishop George Dion OMI, have owned and administered Notre Dame of Jaro for the last 50 years. There are more than 400 students enrolled in the school. It has produced religious sisters and priests through the years. The OND Sisters have their formation houses in Tamontaka, Cotabato City, along with the Marist Brothers and Oblate Fathers. Some Sisters work in the three Marist schools in Dadiangas, Marbel and Kidapawan.



Bro. Manuel de Leon, on behalf of the Marist Brothers, visited the affected area, and was in touch with the OND Sisters. The school in Jaro, as shown in the pictures, has been destroyed. It needs to be rebuilt. They also need some livelihood program for the families and parents to support the children for going to school. The OND Sisters have another school, Notre Dame of Abuyog. It has more than 600 students, mostly children of farmers and fishermen. It has been damaged but not as badly as Notre Dame of Jaro.

FMSI (International Foundation of the Marist Brothers) is going to help the Oblates of Notre Dame Sisters to rebuild their schools. In collaboration with SAGIP KA 2000 FOUNDATION (NGO of the Marist Brothers in the Philippines which already has some members in Tacloban) they are going to start some activities there, such as a livelihood program that is sustainable for the poor people in adopted communities who will go hungry after the relief goods are finished. They plan to buy vegetable seeds for them to grow so as to support their nutritional needs.

Any help we can extend to the poor will go a long way. Food, medicines, shelter, education, and psychological counseling are the basic needs that have to be addressed.

FMSI (www.fmsi-onlus.org), via PayPal, will collect every donation, however small, for this PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY.

CAPTURING OUR IMAGINATION

Secretariat of Collaboration for Mission, International

On the day of the death of Nelson Mandela, the five Marist schools in South Africa published a tribute to a man they revered. He had figuratively walked alongside the sons and daughters of Champagnat during the time of apartheid as Marists in South Africa challenged the separation of students in schools by integrating Marist schools for children of all backgrounds. The courageous action of our confreres at that time was in direct contravention of the laws existing in South Africa at that time. The Marist engagement in the educational struggles in South Africa captured our imagination just as the spirit Nelson Mandela continues to capture our imagination.

We seek always to have our imagination 'captured'. To be inspired! It is a work of the Spirit through the charism which we inherit as Marists. A visit to the newly refurbished house at La Valla will do this for us. It is accessible and welcoming; very Marist! We enter community, the place of the table around which the first little brothers gathered at street level. We are then drawn in two directions. Possibly to Marcellin's personal space, a simple basement room; a place of interiority. Or upwards to a vast room overlooking the valley of the Rive de Gier which flow the sea on the way to Oceania and all the world; the place of mission. The building captures our imagination afresh. An iconic Marist lighthouse for the world!

At the recent General Conference at L'Hermitage the Marist

imagination was captured, yet again, by the idea of internationality. This is not new. We remember the word of Marcellin, "...tout le monde..." But there is a re-imagination taking place in Marist life; one that is built on the foundations of the good work that we continue to do.

All Marists are inspired by the ministry of the Blue Marists in Aleppo in Syria. We rejoice in the lay and brother Marist communities committed to the seven countries of

six American provinces of the Arco Norte region; the Marist re-entry into Cuba; our international response to the disaster in Haiti; the ministry of advocacy for the rights of the child at the United Nations; new vocational realities in Africa, East Timor and Vietnam.

All, such as these, capture our imagination. They are characterised by international and interprovincial involvement of those who call themselves Marist.

The General Council secretariat, Collaboration for Mission, International continues to facilitate the creation of international and interprovincial communities, support the needs of *missio ad gentes*, and develop structures for an volunteer program. Our mindset is being continually revitalised. There are nearly 300 Marists presently engaged in mission outside the borders of their province of origin. They are younger and older; brothers and lay; long term and short term. All of them contribute to a Marist narrative that captures our imagination.

Enquiries about involvement in international Marist ministry should be directed to your Provincial or the province CPV – (Coordinator of Province Volunteers) or directly to the Superior General.

Chris Wills, Director of the Secretariat of Collaboration for Mission, International

www.champagnat.org/vol



Marist District of Asia: Br Francis (Ghana), Br Andrés (Spain), Rodrigo, Josué, Estela (Mexico), Br Ismael (Spain)

the new Marist District of Asia. We are interested and involved as international projects evolve: Pan-Amazonia traversing the border areas of the Amazon, focusing on the indigenous and riverine peoples who know nothing of borders; a new mission in Harlem for Spanish migrants planned by the

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