

## 2017: A NEW BEGINNING

Message of Br Emili Turú,  
for the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

The traditional message prepared by Br Emili Turú for the whole of the Institute on the occasion of the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, this year takes the form of a video. In it he explains the three years of preparation for the bicentenary of the foundation of the Institute (2017), and provides motivation for every one's participation.

In the video, of 20 minutes duration, Br Emili presents and develops the three icons which will accompany our journey towards 2017:

- 1st Icon: Montagne – Basic theme: Marist mission - Dates: October 2014-July 2015
- 2nd Icon: Fourvière – Basic theme: The Society of Mary, fraternity: partners for mission (brothers and laity) - Dates: July 2015-July 2016
- 3rd Icon: La Valla – Basic theme: The mystical dimension of our lives - Dates: August 2016 – August 2017



Institute and can be found in different grades of resolution: HD (high definition); DVD (DVD type definition) and CD (CD video definition). Together with the video, it is also possible to download the text in the different languages to facilitate rereading and study.

The video is available in the four official languages of the

[www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3270](http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3270)



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Br Emili Turu is taking part in the Assembly of Superior Generals being held in Rome from 28 to 30 May.

Br Josep Maria Soteras C.G. is attending the Canadian Province Chapter from 30 May to 1 June.

Br Javier Espinosa and his two codirectors of the Secretariat of the Laity, Tony Clark and Pep Buetas, are in Lima, Peru, at the meeting of the Enlarged Secretariat of the laity from 26 May to 2 June.

Br Joao Carlos do Prado, director of the Mission Secretariat, is attending the meeting of the Governing Board of the Marist Network of Higher Education being held in the Philippines from 26 to 30 May.

# OCEANIA YOUNGER BROTHERS GATHERING

## Sharing the challenges, hopes and possibilities for Marist Brotherhood in Oceania

From Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 April a gathering of younger Brothers from across the Oceania Region, (the Province of Australia and the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific) was held at the scenic location of the Lomeri Novitiate in Fiji.

The five days provided us with a great opportunity to get to know each other and share the challenges, hopes and possibilities for Marist Brotherhood throughout the region. It was a unique experience to listen to each person speak about Marist life and mission through the lens of being a younger Brother. Included in our programme was a visit to four of the Marist ministries and the two communities in Suva, where the Brothers first arrived in 1888. It was great to see how the spirit of St Marcellin has taken root in the local culture, especially in the schools and among the Champagnat Marists (Lay Groups). The highlight was visiting the Champagnat Institute 'second chance' school for disadvantaged young people.

Our sessions were facilitated by Kevin Wanden from New Zealand and focussed on the key areas of vocation, formation for leadership and community life. While acknowledging the present realities and challenges in each area, we



also heard of the joys and hopes which brothers had for the future. As an outcome of our gathering a report and list of recommendations are being prepared for the Oceania College of Leaders.

We feel hopeful that our recommendations will lead to a renewed sense of being a younger Brother and continuing the mission of making Jesus known and loved among youth of our region. Thanks to the Major Superiors for organising the event and to the Lomeri Novitiate Community for generously hosting the gathering. Bula! The 'Younger' Brothers.



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# HOW LONG HAVE THE MARISTS BEEN PRESENT IN HAITI?

## Province of México Occidental

The Marist presence in Haiti goes back 28 years. Since 15 September 1985, there have been Marist Brothers and missionaries in Haiti, initially in the little coastal town

of Damme Marie. In 1986, the Province of Canada founded a community in the town of Latibolière, 10 kilometres from the principal city of the region: Jérémie. The official transfer of Haití from the

Province of Canada to the Province of México Occidental was on 8 January 2009. Since then, Canadian and Mexican Brothers have worked together to continue the marist mission.

During the year 2010, the work consisted essentially of channeling and distributing aid in money and in kind to the many persons suffering from the catastrophe of the earthquake of 13 January that year.

## Marist Communities in Haiti

### I. Damme Marie

The town of Dame-Marie is located at the extremity of the region of the Grand'Anse, the extreme west and most distant from the capital of the country. It counts some 10,000 inhabitants (more than 40 if all its communes are taken into account), and is one of the most important in this region.

The Marist presence in Damme Marie consists of 4 Brothers, José Luis Casillas (Chepo), Community Animator, and Sergio Cáceres (Checo), Sector Econome, both Mexican, and Toussaint Forestal and Wilguins Francois, Haitians.

The brothers work in two schools:

**a. The primary school "Notre-Dame de Fátima":** from its origins a government school conducted by the Marist Brothers. They oversee the organization and educational processes; the plant and the teachers' salaries are the concern of the government. Those actually working in the school are Brs Chepo and Toussaint.

**b. The College "Notre-Dame de la Nativité":** a secondary and preparatory school also conducted by the Marist Brothers, with the buildings belonging to the diocese. Marist personnel in this school: Brs Checo and Wilguins.

After the earthquake of 2010, it is estimated that over 100,000 persons arrived in this region, by boat, bus, lorry or on foot, coming from Port-au-Prince, the capital, to find shelter in the homes

of friends and family. For this reason, the classrooms which were built for 40 students, had to cope with more than 80 per room after the earthquake.

As a consequence, four more classrooms are being built, two of which are intended for the last two years of study (equivalent to the leaving certificate) and two more for pastoral work, with the need to locate the electricity generator plant required for the computer room.



At present, the secondary and leaving certificate classes have around 400 students.

### II. Jérémie

A city founded in 1760 and now the capital of the province of the Grand'Anse. It is the largest and most important city in the south-west region of Haiti, having more than 100,000 inhabitants if all its communes are counted. It has an air link with Port-au-Prince. Jérémie is called the "City of poets", because of the number of poets, writers and historians born there.

**Marist Postulancy in Jérémie:** Here is the Marist postulancy in Haiti. The formators since the 2011 school year have been Brs Luis Enrique Rodríguez (Lers), and Rafael Álvarez (Rach), both Mexicans. They are responsible for accompanying the Haitian postulants in

the process of vocational discernment. The postulants do their studies in a formation centre which is common for the different religious formation houses of the city, and carry out their apostolate in the house by helping with the catechism of children.

At present, here in Jérémie they are constructing a Community Centre which will serve for initiating a teacher training project for Haitians and offer other services for the many people living in and around the Caracolier quarter, in which the house of the Marist community is situated.

And from August 2014, Jérémie will also be the site of the Marist Novitiate of the Province of México Occidental in Haiti, directed by Brother Toño Cavazos.

### III. Latibolière

10 km south of Jérémie is the town of Latibolière. The people support themselves mainly by agriculture since the town is located in a mountainous area far from the sea. Here the Marist brothers conduct a diocesan college called "Collège Alexandre Dumas", in honour of the celebrated author of the "The Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Christo", of Haitian ancestry.

The college has secondary and preparatory sections and offers education to an average of 461 students, 3/4 of them supported by bursaries from a Canadian foundation which provide each with the payment of school fees, uniform, school bag, school equipment and a daily light breakfast.

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In this school work Brothers Toño Cavazos, Mexican, as administrator of the college, Laurent Beauregard, Canadian, in charge of the library and a little evening class for primary children who have not the means to attend the local school and Jean Mance.



In giving us Mary's name, Father Champagnat wished us to live her spirit. He was convinced that it was she who has done everything for us, and he called her our Ordinary Resource and our First Superior.

To make Mary's spirit our own, we contemplate the life of our Mother and Model. Our ways of being and acting draw their inspiration and guidance from the attitudes that made her the perfect disciple of Christ.

*Constitutions 4*

# SECRETARIAT BROTHERS TODAY

## Second meeting of the International Commission

The International Commission for the Secretariat Brothers Today had its second meeting at the General House from 8th May to 14th May 2014. The group is composed by Br. César Augusto Rojas (Colombia, Director of the Secretariat), Br. Tony Leon (Australia, Assistant Director of the Secretariat), and Br. Ernesto Sánchez (General Councilor). Seven other members of the Team were present: Br. James Pinheiro Dos Santos (Brazil), Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes (Spain), Br. Norbert Mwila (Zambia), Br. Peter Rodney (Australia), Br. Jean Marie Batick (Melanesia), Br. Dan O' Riordan (USA), Br. Albert Nzabonaliba (Rwanda). However, for various reasons Br. Saul Placious (India), Br. Hipólito Pérez (Central America) and Br. Eugène Kabanguka (GC) could not attend the meeting. We accepted their apologies.

On one hand, in light of the last General Conference, of the Year of Consecrated Life, and of the preparations towards the Marist Bicentenary (2017), the Secretariat believes in a "new beginning." And Vocation Ministry is the key that subsequently implies a good Initial Formation. With these convictions, the overall meeting reflected upon some practicalities that the Secretariat Brothers Today can

put in place for the coming years. Among aspects that require our attention today, one particular one aspect focused our attention: the exploration of the possibilities of organizing an "International Colloquium on Initial Formation." This comes especially as the Church is dedicating 2015 as the Year for Consecrated Life Nonetheless, prior to this important event, we feel called to engage in some dynamics of reflections on Vocation Ministry and Initial Formation programs, for both Brothers and Lay Marists.

On the other hand, some Guest Speakers presented a variety of topics related to the Vocation Ministry and Identity of Religious Brothers today. To mention just few here, Br. René Stockman, Superior General of the Brothers



of Charity was all that impressive and convincing with regard to the Vocation and Mission of religious Brothers today. Br. Javier Espinosa spoke to us about this new era for the Marist Charism: Marist Future in Communion. All in all, and from now on, some key words seem to enter in our vocabulary: awakening the dawn, fostering the birth of a new epoch for the Charism, and new beginning. To undertake this journey into new beginning, wrote Fr. David Ranson in his article, "The Role Played by Vocations Directors in presenting the face of Religious and Clergy to the World (2010)": there are in fact three questions that Jesus puts to us in the adventure of discipleship of him: 1. "What do you want / what are you looking for?" 2. "Who do you say I am?" and 3. "Do you love me?"

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