

BICENTENNARY OF THE PLEDGE OF FOURVIÈRE

Letter from the Marist family congregational leaders

On 15 August 2012 we recalled the 200th Anniversary of the words directed by Mary to Courville "heard, but not with his bodily ears, but from the heart...a Society which will bear my name...calling itself the Society of Mary". Consequently, 12 young men from the major seminary in Lyon, including five newly-ordained priests signed the Pledge of Fourvière on July 23 1816; only 4 persevered in this project, among these were Jean-Claude Colin and Marcellin Champagnat.

They went their separate ways. Jean-Claude Colin was made curate at Cerdon, where his brother Pierre was parish priest. Pierre embraced the Marist project and brought to Cerdon Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and her first companion

"We the undersigned striving to work together for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity to founding the pious congregation of Marists" (July 23, 1816. OM 1, doc 50)

Marie Jotillon who laid the beginnings of the Marist Sisters. From Cerdon, Jean-Claude Colin and Etienne Déclas began to preach parish missions. Groups of lay tertiaries, from whom the Marist Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary later took their origin, were formed in subsequent years. Consequently, the multi-branched Society of Mary, the object of the act of commitment consecrated at Fourvière in 1816, gradually took shape.

As Marist Family we would like

- to provoke a sense of curiosity and awe at the significance of the Fourvière Pledge for today;

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On 6 and 7 of this month, Br Joe McKee is taking part in the meeting of the team responsible for MAPAC, in the Philippines. To 10 October, Br Ernesto Sánchez, CG, and Tony Leon, of the Secretariat Brothers Today, will be at Manziana, running a seminar on "Education as process" for the participants in the course for formators. The same seminar is being conducted at El Escorial, by Brs Antonio Ramalho, CG, and César Rojas, Director of Brothers Today.

Br Michael de Waas, CG, is on a visit to the Brothers in Pakistan until 13 October.

Between 5 and 10 October, the Assembly of the Brothers in Colombia is being held, with the presence of Br Eugène Kabanguka, CG.

From 1 to 3 October, a meeting of the Mission Commission was held in Nairobi, with the participation of Brs Chris Wills (Secretariat of Collaboration for Mission International), Miguel Ángel Espinosa (Secretariat of Mission) and Mario Meuti (FM-SI).

From 1 to 4 October, Br Javier Espinosa, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity, took part in the meeting of the European Commission of the Laity in Roxos, Spain.

- to foster an enhanced sense of Marist identity as "Marist Family";
- to boost a renewal of energy, hope, joy, motivation and commitment to the "work of Mary".

A Marist Family committee has been working on your behalf to ensure that we commemorate this foundational event for the Marist Family. The culmination of our considerations will be a celebration of the Eucharist at the Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyons, on 23 July 2016. Hopefully Cardinal Barbarin will be our main celebrant!

The Marist youth preparing for World Youth Day in Poland, already gathered in Lyons will also be participating. It is hoped that the Mass at Fourvière will be broadcast live through the web so that Marists in many parts of the world will be able to be linked in as part of, or in conjunction with, their own Fourvière celebrations that day. The intention is that there will be Marist family celebrations held throughout the Marist world.

In preparation for the day itself, the branches of the Marist family will celebrate Fourvière Year from 23 July 2015 to 23 July 2016. We hope that communities of the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, together with Marist



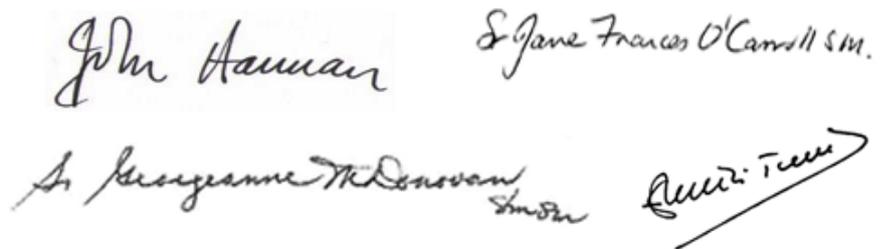
laity will collaborate to organise some preparatory events in order to reflect and pray, giving us all an opportunity to be open to renewal and offering an impetus for going forward in building a Church with a Marian face.

The committee has prepared activities to focus our thoughts and prayers for the year: a short history of the back drop of the Pledge and what inspired it written by Justin

Taylor, S.M., together with a reflection on its significance for us today by François Druilly, S.M.; a guide for a short series of three community meetings of reflection and prayer for communities and individuals; and the provision of other resources that will be linked to each of our Congregational websites. Added to this, we hope to publish a collection of contributions from the young members of our Marist family on their hopes and dreams for the future, inspired by the young men of Fourvière. You will hear more about this later.

We encourage each of you and your communities to embrace Fourvière Year with open hearts so that we, in this time and place, will be renewed in our desire and commitment to give ourselves fully, "All for the glory of God and the honour of Mary" as did those first Marists who made their Pledge at Fourvière in 1816.

Marist family congregational leaders - September 2014



Br. Antonio Boldú - 100 years of life, commitment and vocation

On 15 September, the community of the Colegio Ramírez Barinaga, in Peru, gathered in thanksgiving with our Br ANTONIO BOLDÚ R., in a moving Eucharistic celebration of his 100 years of life. Many words of gratitude were addressed to one who dedicated his whole life as brother, teacher and apostle in the lands of San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, to the children and young people he served...



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

Calendar of the General Council and the Directors of Secretariats

01 – 03 October: African Mission Commission - Nairobi, Kenya: Chris Wills, Miguel Ángel Espinosa, Mario Meuti

01 – 04 October: European Commission of the Laity - Roxos, Spain: Javier Espinosa

01 - 10 October: Workshops on Formation, Escorial - Spain (Antonio Ramalho and César Rojas), Manziana - Italy (Tony Leon and Ernesto Sánchez)

01 – 13 October: Visit to Pakistan: Michael De Waas

05 – 10 October: Brothers' Assembly, Colombia: Eugène Kabanguka

06 – 07 de octubre: MAPAC Board: Joe McKee

09 – 11 October: Hermitage Community: Javier Espinosa

13 – 18 October: Meeting for new provincials – General House: Emili Turú, Joe Mc Kee, Michael De Waas, Víctor Preciado

13 – 18 October: Encuentro Equipo Proceso laical, Barcelona, Spain: Javier Espinosa

14 October: European Marist Conference – General House: Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez

15 – 17 October: European Meeting on New Models – General House: João Carlos do Prado, Miguel Ángel Espinosa, Victor Preciado, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sanchez

20 October: Regular Council session

20 – 23 October: Visit to the FMSI Community – Geneva: Michael De Waas

20 October – 02 November: Retreat and evaluation of the program for Brother Formators at Manziana and El Escorial – L'Hermitage: César Rojas and Tony Leon

21 October – 03 November: Course on KOSMOS and ARCHIVUM for the secretaries and archivists of the Provinces of Compostela and México Occidental – General House: Carlos Huidobro

21 – 24 October: Meeting on Joint Formation for Brothers and Laity for Asia - Philippines

22 October: Third Age Course in English begins (until 18 December) – Manziana, Italy

22 – 25 October: International Council of Economic Affairs – Porto Alegre, Brazil: Víctor Preciado, Mario Meuti

24 October – 02 December: Visit of Province of Ibérica, Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez

26 October – 01 November: V Meeting Hearts in Solidarity of the Americas, Sara Panciroli, Vicente Falqueto

27 – 28 October: Bedford Fund Meeting – Porto Alegre, Brazil: Víctor Preciado

27 – 29 October: Asian Meeting on New Models – Bangkok, Thailand: João Carlos do Prado, Michael de Waas



31 October: End of Third Age Course in French

31 October – 02 November: Spirituality course for Brothers and Lay Marists of the Province of West Central Europe – Munich, Germany: Tony Leon

01 – 02 November: Close of the Course for Formators – L'Hermitage, France: Joe Mc Kee

02 – 17 November: Meeting of co-directors of Secretariat of the Laity – Seoul, Korea: Javier Espinosa

05 – 08 November: Meeting of the Inter-American Conference of Provincials (CIAP), Commissions – Bogotá, Colombia: Josep Maria Soteras, Mario Meuti, Vicente Falqueto, Tony Leon, Miguel Angel Espinosa, Chris Wills

10 – 15 November: Marist International Network of Higher Education Meeting, Philippines: Michael de Waas, João Carlos do Prado

16 November: End of Third Age Course in Spanish/Portuguese

16 – 30 November: Visit to the Marist Communities of Philippines: Michael De Waas

17 – 27 November: Visit of the Commission "New Models" to the District of Pacific

20 November: Regular Council session

21 – 22 November: VI Education Seminar UISG-USG – Rome: Miguel Angel E. Barrera

24 – 27 November: first meeting of working team on "Financial autonomy of the Administrative Units" – General House: Víctor Preciado, Mario Meuti

25 a 29 November: Plenaria de la Congregación para los Institutos de Vida Consagrada (Vaticano): Emili Turú

01 – 06 de diciembre: Consejos provinciales de México: Emili Turú

01 – 21 December: Guatemala: Javier Espinosa

03 – 04 December: Provincial Chapter of Brasil Centro-Sul – Curitiba, Brazil – Josep Maria Soteras

06 December: Provincial Assembly Brasil Centro-Sul – Curitiba, Brazil – Josep Maria Soteras

07 – 14 December: Cuba: Emili Turú

08 – 18 December: Visit to Cameroon, Antonio Ramalho

and Ernesto Sánchez
09 – 11 December: Meeting on South Sudan Solidarity Project – Rome, Italy: Chris Wills
10 – 17 December: Retreat for Province of Brasil Centro-Sul – Florianópolis, Brazil – Josep Soteras, Eugène Kabanguka

12 – 15 December: Chapter of Province of Norandina: Joe McKee
22 December – 11 January: Interprovincial retreats in México – Josep Maria Soteras, Eugène Kabanguka



THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA CONCERNING THE EBOLA VIRUS

News from the Community of Monrovia

Br. Anthony Siryeh, from the Marist Community of Monrovia, gives us some information about the situation in Liberia concerning the Ebola Virus.

Greetings from Monrovia where I have been for the past few weeks. At the beginning of August, I was in Cote D'Ivoire for our District Annual Retreat. I needed to come back to Liberia due to one reason and the other despite the fact that the EBOLA VIRUS was increasing in my country.

I am in Liberia presently living in our community of Monrovia. I am here with Br. Tekay and Br. Samuel. The situation is getting on a high speed and lives of our people are wasting everyday. The epidemic has affected everything in the country. There is a state of emergency for three months (6th August – 6th November, 2014) and during this time, all schools remain closed and government offices must reduce workers specially those whose functions are not demanding. People are restricted of their movements.

We are not allowed to travel from one part of the country to the other. The government closed all boarder lines. All entertainment centers are closed everyday by 6:00pm and curfew (indoor time imposed by the government) for everyone by 9:00pm. People are not allowed to meet in public gatherings and so it affects people attending churches and other conferences in the country. This also has a

great impact on the economy and the development of the country. Business men and women are not travelling to get their goods because most of the things (food and dry goods) are imported from other countries. Prices of goods are becoming high everyday. Projects that were going on by the government have stopped. All our International Agencies have left the country to safe themselves from the virus.

Most of the Airlines have stopped coming to Liberia. Traveling in Liberia is now affected by all.

Hospitals and clinics are closed down and that means people are not treated when they are sick. This also makes the whole issue very complex in the country. Other people are down of normal illnesses and because they are not treated, they meet their death time. From these various hospitals, we lost most of the nurses and doctors. Death news continues to increase on a daily basic although other people are

getting better from the EBOLA drugs that were brought in by WHO.

We need to help our people with food. Now everything has become expenses since nothing is coming from anywhere. Food items that people used to buy from other parts of the country are now restricted. Many of our people are dying from hunger. Helping to feed our people is a priority for now.

We need funding to organize campaign on Ebola awareness and sensitization within our communities. This is what other NGOs are doing but since their funding is limited, they cannot cover the whole city of Monrovia. We could help in this direction if possibility prevails for us.

I need some kind of help from any donor if you can assist. Or what do you have in mind when you said "if I need some help to assist the people here?" Generally I need any international assistance.

The Marist Community is a sort of hope to our people here. Seeing us around is a kind of encouragement to each of them. We would like to assist in whatever way we can.



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