

JUST A TENT AS THE HEART OF OUR FUTURE

Letter of Brother Emili Turú



On Tuesday 28 October, anniversary of Marcellin's meeting with the young Montagne, the way that will lead us to the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute in 2017 was officially opened. The first year, up to July 2015, is called the "Montagne Year" and coincides, throughout the Church, with the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. This period is intended to be a reminder of the importance and urgency of our mission, as relevant today as it was in Father Champagnat's time. Inspired by our Founder, who walked for several hours from La Valla to this place, we

feel the same call to get going and meet the new Montagnes of today, wherever they may be.

To mark the beginning of preparations for the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute, the Superior General, Br Emili Turu, has published a letter entitled: "Just a tent as the heart of our future", in which he presents a reflection on the general theme of the Bicentenary: a new beginning. The letter, in digital form, is available on <http://www.champagnat.org/000.php?p=370>

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Br. Joe Mc Kee, Vicar general, visited Sri Lanka, from 20 to 27 October.

The meeting of the International Finance Council took place in Porto Alegre, Brasil from 22 to 25 October, with Brs Victor Preciado, Econome and Councillor General, and Mario Meuti of FMSI representing the General Administration. After, Br. Víctor met with Bedford Fund.

On the 24th, Brs Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez of the General Council began their visit to the province of Ibérica. This visitation will end on 2 December.

From Sunday 26th, Br Chris Wills, director of the Secretariat of Collaboration for Mission International, and Sara Pancioli of FMSI are taking part in the V Inter-American Meeting of "Marist Hearts in Solidarity" in Quito, Ecuador.

From Monday to Wednesday, the meeting on New Models of Animation, Administration and Government for Asia is being held in Thailand, with the participation of Brs Michael De Waas, of the General Council, and Joao Carlos do Prado, of the Secretariat of Mission.

Brothers César Rojas and Tony Leon are at the Hermitage accompanying the Brothers of the Third Age course from Rome (Spanish and Portuguese) and the two groups of formators from Manziana and El Escorial, who will complete the course "Brothers formators for a new world" next Sunday.

EUROPEAN MARIST CONFERENCE

Meeting in Rome brings together the 5 Provinces of Europe

On October 14, 2014, the meeting of the EMC (European Marist Conference) was held in the General House in Rome. Those taking part were the Provincials of the 5 Administrative Units and one delegate per Province, as well as the General Councillors Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez. We give details of three of the topics treated.



1) One of the points of the order of the day was the review of the documents and work plans of the four European Commissions directly dependent on the EMC: the Mission Commission presented its work plan for 2014-2017; the Commission Brothers today presented its for 2013-2017, plus the evaluation of the first European retreat for Brothers from the different European Provinces; the European Vocations Commission presented the activities carried out in the course of 2013-2014; finally, the Commission of Brothers and Laity presented the minutes of its annual meeting and activities planned for the future.

2) One important point of the meeting was the time devoted to a topic of great relevance for the Institute: the new international communities. In the presentation, it was evident that the subject is not a new one, but that it appears with more force, new opportunities and new perspectives at the present time. We heard the echo of the

words of the former Superior General, Brother Seán Sammon, who summed it up in these words: "we have been an international Institute for more than a century, but we have not always acted as such". This topic is now appearing in many documents of the Institute, such as in the General Conference of 2013 and the recent Mission Assembly in Nairobi. The EMC takes note of the urgency "of internationality" and will come back to the theme at the next meeting in May, in Beirut. There is an openness to these international communities, but the problem needs to be thoroughly studied so as to see how to act so that this call of the Congregation can be made concrete ever more naturally. The example of the international communities of "Ad Gentes", in the current District of Asia, can be a good one for guiding us in the construction of this type of community in Europe too.

3) Another of the important points discussed was the last stage of the II International Marist Mission Assembly which will be the Regional Assembly. It was felt that this Assembly must include the three principal elements of the message of the Nairobi Assembly: the invitation to all Marists to be prophets, mystics and creators of communion. A date was proposed for the Regional Assembly of Europe: 13 to 16 April 2015, at the Hermitage. Together with the themes of Nairobi, there was also the mention of another coming event in the life of the Institute, the celebration of the Bicentenary, with a clearer idea of living and shaping a celebration orientated towards a new beginning, as indicated by the Superior General: "2017: a new beginning". Marist Europe wishes to respond: "Present!" to this invitation from Br Emili Turú.



Professions - Final vows

Province of East Asia: Br. Damaso Chun professed his final vows as a Marist Brother on October 11, 2014 at the Korea-Japan Sector House in Seoul

Province of South Asia - Final Profession of Br. Binamine Masih, commonly known and called as Br. Ben, in

Pakistan – Peshawar City, last 11th October.

Province of Rio Grande do Sul: Brothers Gérson Dresch and Manuir Mentges celebrated their definitive consecration through the profession of Perpetual Vows on 11 October.

NEW MODELS OF ANIMATION, GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT

European Regional Meeting

On 15, 16 and 17 October, the European meeting on new models of animation, government and management, promoted by Br Emili Turú and the General Council, was held in the General House. This was the fifth meeting held in the Marist world after those of the Americas, Africa and Oceania. The meeting in Asia, to be held at the end of this month, will close this first phase of analysis which is being carried out.

Those taking part in this meeting were the Provincial Councils of the five provinces of Europe: Compostela, Ibérica, West Central Europe, l'Hermitage and Mediterránea, as well as some significant leaders of provincial animation and management.

The meeting was organized around group discussion with the first idea of taking a photograph, and making an analysis of the situation of the Marist life and mission in reference to animation, management and government. A second part of the work consisted of making a future projection which serves for finding new models, new forms which can be implemented in the future, thus providing a response to one of the calls of the XXI General Chapter.

The objectives set for the meeting were as follows:

- Make the project known: its origin, progressive realization, its final scope, purpose, the process proposed and the results hoped for.
- Develop the first phase of analysis by gathering information about the actual situation of the provinces and the region and the future projections



currently existing (at the levels of works, province, region, General Administration and Institute).

- Promote a better mutual understanding between the provinces which form the European region with regard to aspects relating to the project.
- Encourage the participation of the provinces in the development of the project.

The provinces took the opportunity to present and share their situation with the others present. In addition, the Project Team had encounters and meetings with each province in order to gain a firsthand knowledge of the different situations of Marist Europe.

The fraternal and welcoming environment was a tonic for the meeting and the work performed, and there were times shared in common with those taking part in other meetings being held in parallel: the formation of older brothers and the meeting of new provincials.



Brother Giovanni Bigotto (1939 – 2014)

On Thursday, 16 October, a Requiem Mass was celebrated in the General House in thanksgiving for the life of Br Giovanni Bigotto, Postulator General from 2001 to 2011.

Br Giovanni passed away on the 12th, in Carmagnola, Italy. After the Mass celebrated by the community there, the body was brought to Rome to lie in state in the main chapel of the General House until being interred in the pantheon of the Brothers in the cemetery of Verano in Rome.

The chapel was completely full, since those attending included the various groups in residence at this time: the new provincials, the Brothers of the Third Age course and the European group taking part in the meeting on New Models, as well as Brothers from Italy, members of the General Administration, and some family members.



COLLABORATION FOR MISSION, INTERNATIONAL - CMI

International Communities for a New Beginning

In July Br Emili, our Superior General, sent a letter to all provincials and district leaders outlining plans for the years leading up to the bicentenary of the Institute and our entry into the third century of Marist life and mission. The wider context included the itinerary for marking the 200 years; the process of the revision of the constitutions and an annexe which announced a major Marist project "International Communities for a New Beginning". In this communication Cmi (Collaboration for Mission, International) reports on the establishment of an international community in New York. Its members are Brothers John Klein from USA, Santos García from Norandina, Héctor Dessavre from México Occidental and Antonio Delgado from México Central.

Building Our Juan Diego Community, New York

A new way of being brothers! This expression sums up what we three brothers of Arco Norte have been seeking to achieve this past month as we unite to form our Juan Diego Community and begin our mission in East Harlem, New York City.

This new community and mission do not have existing structures or established programs to depend on, and we are just beginning to get a clear idea of what people would like us to accomplish. What the three of us Marists have been attempting to do is respond to a perceived and actual need expressed by many Latino immigrants and the Church in this New York City neighborhood. We welcome this challenge and have been taking on the task of getting to know, listen to and assist the people we have come to serve.

We've been getting to know each other and starting to build our own Marist community as brothers. We have moved in with two other brothers who were already living in this house, sharing our thoughts, plans and dreams together, and looking forward to continuing this developing fraternal dialog. We are forging a new style of Marist life in community, one that is nourishing our hearts, our lives as consecrated religious and our

mission as Marists. We've been getting involved with the people we've come to serve and listening to their concerns, an absolutely necessary first step. We began by introducing ourselves and meeting with adults in the neighborhood, listening carefully to their hopes and concerns. On a daily basis they are continuing to share their needs and perspectives with us. With their input we are putting together a schedule for the study of English as a second language. And we are in constant contact with local diocesan leaders, offering them our experience and support in formal and informal educational settings.

We're questioning ourselves. In our thoughts, prayers, discussions, planning and acquiring educational materials, we've been raising important questions about what it means to be a member of this Juan Diego community. In doing so, we have been benefiting from the strong support and encouragement of the leaders of the United

States Province. Our questions lead to suggestions, ways of doing things and raise new questions that enliven us, filling us with enthusiasm to continue creating, step by step, this community and carrying out its mission.

We've been looking for the best available times and facilities for the community's programs and objectives. In particular, times for sharing with teenagers and young people, with whom we've just begun meeting in small groups. The pastor of the parish sees this as one of the greatest challenges that can be met by our mission as Marist brothers dedicated to making Jesus known and loved by the children and young people in his care – especially those whom society has cast aside. As our first month came to a close, our community was happy to welcome Brother Antonio Delgado, a new and enriching step for all of us.

Creating something new means introducing something not seen before, something with a history yet to be made. Thanks for sending us here on mission, trusting in us, listening to what we've been experiencing and praying for us. We are happily committed to this new and international way of being brothers.

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<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 00144 ROMA E-mail: comunica@fms.it Site web: www.champagnat.org</p>
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Edited by:
Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

