

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Br Emili at the plenary assembly of the Congregation for Consecrated Life

From 25 to 29 November, there was held in Rome the plenary assembly of the CIVCSVA (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life). The 45 members taking part, nominated or confirmed by Pope Francis, come from all over the world and include cardinals, bishops and Superior Generals of various Religious Orders and Institutes, among them Br Emili Turú, our Superior General. His presence confirms the importance the Pope places on Religious Institutes of Brothers.

This plenary assembly reflected on the current state of consecrated life, fifty years after the conciliar documents, "Lumen Gentium" and "Perfectae Caritatis". The theme chosen was "New wine in new wineskins" and Pope Francis, in receiving the participants, based his discourse on the many meanings of this phrase.

The Plenary Assembly concluded on the 29th with a prayer vigil in the Roman Basilica of St Mary Major with the attendance of numerous consecrated persons. Both Br Emili and Br Eugène Kabanguka had important roles in this time of prayer. It was a way of marking the official opening of the Year of Consecrated Life which took place the following day, the First Sunday of Advent, with Mass in St Peter's Basilica, presided over by Cardinal João Braz de Aviz. The Holy Father, who was in Turkey, addressed a video message to all the consecrated men and women living and working in the world.



The Year of Consecrated Life coincides with the holding in the Institute of the Montagne Year, in preparation for the Bicentenary of the Institute.



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From 1 to 6 December, the Superior General, Br Emili Turu, is attending the meetings of the two Provincial Councils of Mexico. From 7 to 14 he will visit the communities of Cuba.

The Provincial Chapter of Brasil Centro-Sul has begun on 2 and finishes on 5 December. Josep Maria Soterias and Eugène Kabanguka represented the General Council.

General Councillors Brs Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sanchez have completed their visit of the Province of Ibérica. In the last week, they visited the communities of Rumania.

Br Joe Mc Kee, Vicar General, and Javier Espinosa of the Secretariat of the Laity are on a visit to Guatemala.

This week, the New Models Team, ATK and the Project Team met in the General House with the secretariats and some councillors.

PROVINCE OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

Workshop at Freising on Spirituality and Vocation

On the weekend of All Saints, the Marists from the Province of West Central Europe came together in a fraternal atmosphere at Freising (Bavaria) for a workshop on the theme: "The Spirituality and the Vocation of Marists". Under the very learned leadership of Brother Tony Leon, Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, and Bernice Reintjens from the Netherlands we were invited to listen to some presentations to help us focus on the differing ways to pray.

We were invited to take a journey focussing on the importance of self-knowledge in the work of evangelisation.

The first question asked of us was: "Who am I?" Not what others think of me, but what do I think of myself. How can I discover myself and my vocation if not through the community of which I am a member, in other words, through my relationships with others? This is a key word. Along this journey, it would be repeated regularly. It was the continuing thread of the weekend.

Following a short exercise in which we contemplated on



Mary, we saw her in terms of her relationship with her cousin, with her Son, with Joseph and we also meditated on her face. We considered two aspects - the joy and the sorrow, the birth of Jesus and his death. It was a reflection of the face of the Church which has known joy but also suffering.



MARIST LAYTY, MEXICO

XX National Meeting of Marist Fraternities

On 31 October and 1 and 2 November, the XX National Meeting of Marist Fraternities was held in the John Paul II House in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco. This year the theme was "Adding up to form Fraternity".

Paty Ríos as our lay representative at world level left us very clear about what a fraternity is and its history down through time. Then we listened to Br Lalo Navarro talking about spirituality and its value in our lives. We heard Mrs

Cuquita Reynoso give testimony of her work in the Marist Family as founder of a fraternity.

Subsequently, we had a discussion by Br Kike Escobar and the psychologist Chantal who made use of various activities to help us think about our fraternities and what we could do to improve them.

Br Lalo Brondo regaled us with an explanation of his Marist mission in the sierra Tarahumara, a region of our

country with many needs. Finally, Br Agustín Acevedo and Vicky Komiyama shared their experience of life as participants in the II Mission Assembly in Nairobi.

We finished with the Sunday Eucharist, feeling inspired to share what we had experienced with all our Fraternity companions, and to continue with enthusiasm and joy on this Marist journey of the Champagnat Movement under the protection of our Good Mother.



MARIST INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

VI Assembly of the International Network

The VI Assembly of the International Marist Network of Institutions of Higher Education was held from 8 to 13 November in the University of Notre Dame de Marbel, in the city of Koronadal, on Kotabato in the Philippines. The theme of the Assembly was "Marist Institutions of Higher Education: meeting around the fire" with the objective "of futhering the understanding of the Marist mission in higher education and its challenges and opportunities for the future". Forty-eight persons from 23 institutions took part.



The Assembly included two conferences: "Evangelization in higher education", given by Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, of the Archdiocese of Cotabato and "Global vision of the future of the institutions of higher education" by Brother Sean Sammon, of Marist College, United States. The report of the working groups for 2012-2014 was also presented, with emphasis on the document on Ministry in Higher Education. There was opportunity for the presentation of some proposals of projects, such as the creation of courses on the Rights of the Child, presented by the FMSI office in Geneva.

To conclude, the Assembly approved:

the continuity of the projects in course; the holding of the Assembly in the middle of 2016, at Marist College, United States, with the objective of working to improve and strengthen the network; the appointment of the new board of directors composed as follows: Mr Pablo González Franco, of the Marcellin Champagnat University-UMCH, in Peru (President); Br Sean Sammon, Marist College, United States; Br David Hall, Australian Catholic University; Mrs Montserrat Giménez Hernández, Cardinal Cisneros University Centre, Spain; and Br Nilima Teixeira, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul-PUCRS, Brasil. There was also approval for the creation of a provisional

secretariat attached to the UMCH in Peru, to support the projects of the network. This would be the responsibility of Br Pablo González Franco.

The Assembly unfolded in an atmosphere of great union and dialogue. We would emphasize the extraordinary welcome of the University of Notre Dame de Marbel which involved the entire academic community. We are sure that the detailed preparations of each day will be kept as an echo in the minds and hearts of all the participants. We are grateful to all those who took part as well as all involved in the preparation and organization of the Assembly.



We do not fully know what road our steps should follow but we are happy about it, as we walk under the Spirit's inspiration and encouraged by the Lord's promise, ready to assemble and disassemble our tent as often as needed. Like Mary, the Pilgrim of Faith, we want impermanence to be our permanent dwelling, staying put in concreteness, moving on together as we discern the calls of the Spirit. We do not only imagine the Church as a tent, but also joyfully accept to dwell in it, fully knowing the implications of its provisional, temporary, adaptable, and unprotected character, but also enjoying its welcoming and relational embrace.

Br. Emili Turú - *Just a Tent as the Heart of our Future* (Letter - 28 October 2014)

Fifty years of Marist Presence in Cameroon



The celebration of the fifty years of Marist Presence in Cameroon was launched on Saturday, October 18, 2014 with Holy Mass at 9.00 a.m. in Saint Joseph's Cathedral Big Mankon, Bamenda in Cameroon. In attendance were the Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda Monseigneur Agapitus Nfon, priests and religious, teachers and students, the Shesans and ex-students of SJCC, Mbengwi and SACC, Bafut. The theme chosen for the Golden Jubilee celebration is "Journeying in Faith and Hope".

Marist mission in Cameroon started in 1965 when the Brothers from the province of Great Britain came to English-speaking Cameroon and started running Sacred Heart College, Mankon in the Archdiocese of Bamenda. The same year those from the province of Quebec came to French-speaking Cameroon and took over the running of

Collège Stoll d'Akono in the Archdiocese of Yaoundé. Marist schools namely; Saint Albert's College, Bafut, Saint Joseph's College, Mbengwi and Saint Pius' College, Tatum continue to feature prominently in the Catholic Education Agency in the dioceses of Bamenda and Kumbo.

Today, all the Brothers are working in the Anglophone region in the northwest of the country. Together with Tchad, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Ghana and the Ivory Coast, Cameroon forms part of the District of West Africa. By itself, Cameroon counts 31 Brothers, including 16 perpetually professed, 5 novices and 8 postulants, and three colleges.



Central America: X Provincial Meeting of the Marist Fraternities of the ChMMF

All began a year ago when we were invited by Rome to reflect on what the slogan "New Marists on mission" might mean and imply for the Marist future.

We quickly received a document inviting us to ingest its contents and which, in short, touched on the essence of being Marist today: a deep spirituality, a tent open to new members: the lay Marists, a new mission field to discover.

In view of these signposts on the way, we began the journey with the preparation for the Second International Marist Assembly in each of our fraternities with reflection about the proposed themes and culminating in the International

Meeting of September in Nairobi.

We were able to assimilate and make our own the conclusions and fruits of this international meeting at the Tenth Provincial Meeting of Fraternities of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family held in the capital of Guatemala on 7, 8 and 9 November.

Around 180 members from most of the fraternities of the province attended,



with the desire of opening new routes in MARIST SPIRITUALITY, in the COMMUNION between Brothers and lay Marists and in the MISSION in new lands.

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