

## A VISIT FULL OF HOPE

### Br Emili Turú visits Cuba

Four superior generals have visited the Marist Brothers' communities in Cuba, Brothers Stratonique, Leonida, Sean and Emili. Each visit has responded to an historic moment with the different circumstances of the Institute and the Brothers in Cuba.

Our dear Br Emili Turú visited us from 7 to 14 December. We felt it has been a blessing for the Brothers of La Havana and Cienfuegos, full of hopeful joy. He was welcomed by the Brothers at the José Martí airport and travelled immediately to the city of Cienfuegos. The following day, he had the opportunity to take part in the festivity of the Immaculate Conception, patronal feast of the diocese where the Brothers offer our services. He joined the pastoral workers and our Bishop, Mons. Domingo Oropeza, at supper, Mass and the procession around the José Martí Park. He also visited some places of interest in the city of Cienfuegos and shared with the children and youth of our Marist youth centre.

In the city of La Havana, Br Emili visited



the centres where the brothers exercise their pastoral ministry, greeted Cardinal Jaime Ortega, and toured significant places of the city. He also met with the coordinator of Religious Affairs of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Br Emili can surely communicate his own experience of life in Cuba, but for us the most important, the most significant thing was to have shared our life and mission with our superior general in a simple and brotherly way, in which personal encounter, daily life and lengthy after dinner conversations helped us drink deeply of the

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Brother Emili is visiting the Marist Novitiate in Tudella (Sri Lanka). After 8 days of journey, he is now going to Australia, where he will take part in the upcoming Marist Youth Festival in Sidney; that will be from the 10th to the 15th of January.

General Counsellors Eugène Kabanguka y José María Soterias will attend the provincial retreats in Mexico until the 11th of January.

Brother Edward Clisby of the Pacific District will return to New Zealand, after 6 years of service at the General Administration as an English translator.

On the 7th of January Aglaya Jiménez Turati started the collaboration at the General House as communication assistant. She will join the communication team with Luiz da Rosa.

spirit of Champagnat. Our time with Br Emili culminated in an intercommunity meeting held in La Havana, in the parish of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Saturday 13 December. We were able to have the latest news of the Institute at first hand as a privileged time of communion with our congregation. In the evening, we celebrated a Eucharist during which our

Br Mario renewed his vows as a Little Brother of Mary.

Thank you, Br Emili, for the opportunity of sharing life with your Brothers of Cuba, thank you for devoting a whole week of your tightly-packed agenda to us. Your presence among us inspires us to continue serving our Cuban Church with mysticism and asceticism, gratuity

and efficacy, prophecy and wisdom, a sense of utopia and germination. Yes, may the few, the little and the insignificant inspire us to continue with the well-dressed apron in the style of Champagnat and so many of our Brothers who have preceded us in the faith in the Pearl of the Caribbean.

Br Héctor Avalos



# LIKE A COMET!

## Visita del Superior general a las provincias de México

In the first week of December, Br Emili Turú, Superior General of the Institute, visited the provinces of México Central and México Occidental, meeting especially with the two Provincial Councils. On 6 December, in Guadalajara, he had the opportunity to meet a group of Marists. About this meeting, Br José Contreras Landeros wrote the text we publish below.

### Like a Comet!

"He passed through like a comet leaving a star of brilliant light. He passed through telling us strong and challenging things in simple and comprehensible words. He passed through telling us it is necessary to go out because we will rot if we stay where we are. He passed through telling us it is necessary to be company hospitals instead of being clinics, to take the risk, to take steps forward, even if nothing can be calculated in terms of cost-benefit. He passed through inviting us to promote a civilization of austerity and solidarity as a way towards another possible world. He passed through telling us that a personal and sustained encounter with Jesus must be the source of our interpersonal encounters and our encounter with the poor so that they may be truly transformative.



Thus was the lightning visit of our Br Emili Turú to our Province of México Occidental, on the 6th of December 2014. It was an Advent to our Marist situation and... it is decisive that we strive to live it".



"The Marist spirituality that originated with Marcellin and the founding community has been enriched by the successive generations of Champagnat's followers. It has now become a stream of living water. Future generations will further enhance this spirituality. With Marcellin, we know that Mary continues to guide its development."

*Water from the Rock, 12*

# ATTACK ON ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Marist Schools have cancelled the Christmas parties

**B**r Remigius Fernando, from the Marist Community in Peshawar, has sent us the following account of the tragic incident which took place in Pakistan on 16th December 2014.

The Army Public school and College is situated about a kilometer from St. Mary's high school, where Brothers Sunil, Remy and Farancis stay. It is a school run by the army for the children of military families, but a few children from civilian families also attend this school.

On the 16th of December, 2014, Tuesday, morning, we had just finished our long break and the boys had gone into the classrooms, and were having the 4th lesson of the day.

One of the senior teachers received a call from a friend of his who said that a group of terrorists, armed with heavy weapons, had entered the Army Public School. They were young people. Gun shots could be heard from inside. We quickly alerted the teachers, but warned them not to let the children know what was going on. Army vehicles with armed commandos and military personnel, were seen moving towards the school, and the roads leading to the Warsak road, where the school was situated, were blocked for public traffic.

As the frequency of the gun shot sounds increased, ambulances with loud sirens continued to go towards the school. We received information that a group of about 10 terrorists, seemingly in army uniforms, had entered the school, and taken some students as hostages, and those who tried to escape were shot dead.

Soon we started to get telephone calls from the parents of our children. We informed them that our children were safe, but inside their classrooms. We decided not to ring any bells for changing of periods, and not to let the children come out for the second, short break.

Meanwhile we saw armoured vehicles, tanks moving along the road in front of us towards the Army school, and helicopters kept flying around. Louder gunshots could be heard now more frequently. The army had the area around the school cordoned off, to prevent the terrorists from escaping.

The parents of our children started to pour in to the school premises to remove their children. This was a tense moment for us. All our workers and the teachers went into action. We had to keep the parents in one area while the workers ran up and down taking the children out of the classrooms and handing them to the respective parents. We had to make



sure that parents personally took charge of their children. By now the bigger boys had come to know that there were some terrorist activities in the neighbourhood.

Around 3:00 p.m. full scale military operation started. The operation lasted till about 6:00 p.m. during which we could hear a few very loud blasts. The terrorists had come with suicide jackets added to their outfits. Some of them had blown themselves off when they realized they could not escape, and with that killed many of the students.

The Director General of the Inter Services Public Relations, Gen. Saleem, who gave a press conference in the evening, said that the terrorists had cut a barbed wire fence at the back of the school and entered. As soon as they entered the school they started shooting indiscriminately. They had no intention of taking any students hostage.

The incident left 148 dead, and over hundred still in various hospitals. Among the dead were 9 teachers including the Principal of the school. She was shot and was set on fire by the terrorists.

By 6:00 p.m. the army had cleared the school of all the terrorists, killing all six or seven of them. It was later learnt that they had captured some alive.

This is the second large scale tragedy after the one in a Church last year which has brought fear and helplessness to those who live in Peshawar, Pakistan.





The two Marist Schools have cancelled the Christmas parties for children and will hold the staff get together in a low scale.

St. Mary's High School will donate the money, which was to be spent on celebrations to those affected from this horrendous crime.

Please keep the people in Peshawar in your prayers asking God to give them courage to carry on their lives without losing hope.

Br Remigius Fernando



# JANUARY - MARCH 2015

## Calendar of the General Council and the Directors of Secretariats

**December 22 - January 11:** interprovincial retreats in Mexico - Eugène Kabanguka and Josep Maria Soteras

**January 4-9:** novitiate South Asia, Sri Lanka - Emili Turú

**January 10-22:** visit province Europe Centre-Ouest. Javier Espinosa and Pep Buetas

**January 10-15:** Marist Youth Festival, Sydney (Australia) - Emili Turú

**January 17-31:** Marist & LaSalle, inter-congregational (Beyond the Borders) in Lebanon and Jordan - Chris Wills

**January 19:** beginning of the plenary meeting of the General Council (until February 27), General House

**January 22-24:** meeting of the General Councils of the Marist Family, Manziana - Italy

**January 29-30:** meeting of the General Council with the New Models' Project Team, General House - Miguel Angel and João Carlos do Prado

**February 3-7:** meeting of the International Commission of Brothers Today, General House - Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez

**February 4-6:** meeting of evaluation of FMSI, General House - Michael De Waas

**February 7:** Board MIUC, Nairobi - Joe McKee

**February 9-12:** meeting of the Conference of the provincials of Africa, Nairobi - Joe Mc Kee and Ernesto Sánchez

**February 13-14:** meeting of the European Team of Brothers Today, Lisbon (Portugal) - Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez



**February 17-18:** meeting of the New Models Commission: Project Team ATKearny, General House - João Carlos do Prado, Miguel Angel, Victor Preciado and Josep Maria Soteras

**February 19-20:** meeting of the General Council with the Commission of New Models, General House

**February 19-24:** meeting of co-directors of the Brothers and Laity Secretariat. Rome. Javier Espinosa

**February 23-24:** meeting of the General Council with the directors of the Secretariats, General House

**February 25:** meeting of the General Council with the Team

of FMSI, General House  
 February 27: end of the plenary meeting of the General Council

**March 2-4:** meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Spirituality, Brothers and Laity, Quito (Ecuador) - Tony Leon, Hipólito Pérez and Javier Espinosa

**March 5-14:** meeting with provincial commissions of Norandina and Mexico - Javier Espinosa

**March 7 to 1 May:** visit to the province of Compostela - Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez

**March 18-25:** meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the International Marist mission Assembly - evaluation Nairobi, Assembly publications and support Regional Phase, Hermitage (France) - João Carlos do Prado, Miguel Angel Espinosa, Tony Leon and Javier Espinosa  
 March 19 to July 11: program Senderos in El Escorial (Spain) and 'Mid Life' in Manziana (Italy)

**March 23:** regular Council

**March 29 - April 5:** Assembly of the province of Brazil Centro-Sul, Curitiba - Emili Turú, Eugène Kabanguka



# FINAL PROFESSION

## Papua New Guinea

Brother Sixtus Winduo was joined by his family, the Brothers from the District of Melanesia, the Rosary Sisters and other religious from Wewak to witness his final profession on Saturday 13 December at Marinumbo, in Papua New Guinea.

The final profession was concelebrated by Fr Joe svd, the parish priest of Marinumbo, the chaplain of St Benedict's Kaindi, Fr. Robert ofm and Fr. Calistus Manse from the neighbouring Sassoia Parish (Fr Calistus in an ex-student for the Marist Brothers at St Xavier's Kairiru).

Chris and Joyce Bias and members of the local lay Marists were joined by numerous ex-students from St Xavier's Kairuru from surrounding villages to celebrate this Marist event.

Br Jean Marie, the District Leader was joined by Brothers



Mark Kenatsi and Noel Langu, who recently made his first profession in Madang.

It was a great celebration for the District of Melanesia and for the local Diocese of Wewak as we begin the Year of Consecrated Life.

## Nigeria

Four Brothers in the Province of Nigeria made their Final Profession at Holy Ghost Cathedral, Enugu-Nigeria on Saturday 15th November, 2014. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided by the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese, His Lordship Dr. Callistus Onaga.

The Provincial Superior, Br. Joachim Ezetulugo received the vows.

The four Brothers are; Br. Innocent Iloabueke, Br. Moses Fegher, Br. Bernard Aguma, and Br. Christian Obaje.

