

## JUST LIVING

### Marist Youth Festival in Sydney, Australia

The 2015 Australian Marist Youth Festival commenced on 12 January in Sydney, with a colourful opening liturgy prepared by the MYM Teams from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. 180 participants from across Australia were welcomed to Gadigal Country by Indigenous elder, Uncle Charles Madden. Br Jeff Crowe officially opened the Festival and Br Emili offered an appetizer on his keynote address 'Just Living – Hearts without borders'.

#### Tuesday 13th January

Following on from the presentations given by Sr Brigid Arthur and Laura John in the morning session, the afternoon was given over to a series of faith and justice workshops followed by Exposition and Reconciliation. Dinner was held at the Australian Technology Park, with Taize prayer in the evening to bring the day to a close.



The presence of 30 Brothers at Taize prayer was reminiscent of the Taize evening held at MYF08 during World Youth Day in Sydney. Again, young people gathered in prayer, song and silence around the Taize Cross, the Icon of Mary and the Marist heart, asking the Lord for hearts to be awakened and renewed. The evening concluded with supper

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

On Monday, January 19, began the plenary of the General Council, which will end next February 27. In this first week, the GC has devoted time to community sharing, focusing on personal experiences since the II Assembly of Mission (September in Nairobi) and about their feelings and expectations for this plenary time. The first issues were related to recent changes in the General Administration, personnel appointments, General Bursar and long-term forecast for the XXII General Chapter. From 22 to 24 the GC will be in our House of Manzianna for the annual meeting of the four Marist General Councils.

Br. Marcelo De Brito, of the province of Cruz del Sur, will be at the General House until early March, completing the application of the Kosmos program, the database that collects information about the Marist Brothers.

Br. Roque Brugnara, from the Province of Brazil Centro-Sul, assumes this week as member of the General House Administration Team.

and some light entertainment back at Sancta Sophia.

**Wednesday 14th January**

Br Emili commenced the morning session, inviting the young participants to reflect on the way in which social media affects and influences their daily lives, and how today's 'culture of indifference' which Pope Francis speaks about can become a barrier in responding whole-heartedly to the Gospel; hence the phrase, 'just living' or simply getting by. The gift of Br Emili's presentation came through his personal challenge to everyone to adopt a Marial approach to life, through service, sorority and silence; "To be Marist today is to be grounded in prayer and action. Contemplation and a spirit of interiority are the foundations of any Christian life which nurtures our desire for service and justice." Always the teacher, Br Emili then led the participants through a practical period of silent contemplation, encouraging everyone to make this an intentional part of their daily lives.



Br Emili's presentation was followed by Fr Peter Day, a diocesan priest from Canberra who lived with the Brothers' Community at Pearce some years back. Peter is the founder of HOME in Queanbeyan, which provides accommodation for people living with mental illness, and who have formerly been living on the streets. In a simple yet powerful way, Peter brought key scenes from the Gospel to life, with stories from the streets and the marginalised he had encountered in his own ministry. It was a real moment of connecting faith with justice for the young people present.

The afternoon sessions saw another round of workshops including a Marist Q&A where Young Marists shared what gives them meaning and joy in being part of the various MYM communities across Australia, together with their personal hopes for the future. Joe McCarthy, Director of the Marist Association, gave an overview of the new movement and explained how young people can be part of this association into the future.

The Festival Eucharist was held in the evening with Bishop Peter Ingham from the Diocese of Wollongong as the chief celebrant, assisted by Fr Andrew Hamilton, SJ, Fr Bob Barber, SM, Provincial of the Society of Mary, Fr Peter Day and Fr Rob Galea. Sr Gail Reneker, SM, joined us for the Mass. The celebration was followed by a praise and worship concert put on by Fr Rob Galea and

his band.

**Thursday 16th January**

The final morning saw Br Emili back on stage joined by Kate Fogarty, a long-time Marist and new principal of Assumption College, Kilmore. Both presenters led the participants through a creative 'where to from here' reflection on how to make these days of input, celebration and prayer real, as everyone prepared to head back to their home destinations. The session concluded with a closing liturgy with reflections from Br Michael Green, two young Marists and a commissioning ceremony led by Emili, finishing with the singing of the Sub Tuum.

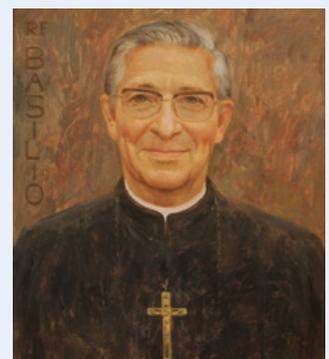


**Br. François Rivat**



Today, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we celebrate the anniversary of the death of Br. Francisco Rivat, Champagnat's successor as Superior General from 1839 to 1860. Born in 1808 in La Valla, he died in 1881 at the Hermitage.

**Br. Basilio Rueda**



Br. Basilio entered into the final Easter on **21 January** 1996. He was Superior General from 1967 till 1985. Basilio enriched us with his person, with his thought, with the great affection he bestowed on each brother.

# ARCO NORTE

## Juan Diego International Community in New York

A new way of being Brothers! This expression sums up what we Brothers of Arco Norte seek to achieve as we united to form our Juan Diego Community and began our mission in East Harlem, New York City. What we Marists are attempting to do is respond to needs expressed by many Latino immigrants and the Church in this New York City neighborhood. We welcome this challenge of taking on the task of getting to know, to listen and to assist the people we have come to serve.

We've been getting involved with the people we've come to serve by listening to their concerns, an absolutely necessary first step. We introduced ourselves and met with adults in the neighborhood. They've begun to share their needs. With their input we've started English as a second language classes. One of the greatest challenges the pastor of the parish sees is working with teenagers and young people. As a result, we've gotten involved in the Friday night meetings that have been in place before our arrival.

Creating something new means introducing something not seen before,



something with a history yet to be made. We are grateful for the trust placed in us to be a part of this mission. We are happily committed to this new and international way of being Brothers.



# PROVINCE OF BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE

## Perpetual profession of three Brothers

On December 20, 2014, Br. Wellington Medeiros, provincial of the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Norte, delegate of Brother Superior general, Br. Emili Turú, received the Brothers Maicon Donizete, Márcio Henrique da Costa and Rogério Silva, who made profession of the

evangelical counsels by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience for their whole lives in the Marist Institute. The mass was celebrated in Mendes by the Jesuit priest Willy Ribeiro, Coordinator of the House of Retreats of Baturité, Ceará, residence of the professed Brothers during the 30

days in which they followed the spiritual and professional itinerary prior to make the perpetual vows.

From 5 to 7 December 2014, was held in Fortaleza, the Professional Mission in preparation for the vows. The objective was to witness and celebrate the consecration at the Marist religious life in the communities to which they belong or where the brothers are inserted.

Learn more about the brothers:

- Br. Maicon Donizete is a formator at the postulancy and a student of Pedagogy.
- Br. Márcio Henrique da Costa is in charge of the coordination of the vocational animation and makes studies of Psychology.
- Br. Rogério Silva acts as ministry coordinator in the



Champagnat Marist School in Teresina and studies Pedagogy.



# EBOLA EPIDEMIC

## Schools in Monrovia, Liberia, will resume in February

Our Brothers in Liberia are doing fine and the Ebola Epidemic has gone down considerably. They report that schools will resume on Monday, February 2, 2015. In view of this, registration for the Academic Year 2014/2015 begun in January 12, 2015.

The country is not yet Ebola-free. It should be noted that the 8,153 deaths: 2,915 reported from Sierra Leone, 3,471 in Liberia and 1,767 in Guinea are from the 20,656 confirmed or suspected cases.

Efforts to find a vaccine has yielded fruits. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the two leading Ebola vaccines made by GlaxoSmith-Kline and Merck and NewLink will soon be tested in healthy volunteers in West Africa. In the meantime the drug called



brincidofovir is being tested in patients at the ELWA 3 centre in Monrovia operated by Médecins Sans Frontières.

