

NEW PROVINCIAL OF AUSTRALIA

Br Peter Carroll

On January 15, the Superior General, Br Emili Turú and his Council, appointed Br Peter Carroll as the new Provincial of Australia. He will take up his post during the Provincial Chapter to be held in October. In the letter written to the Province and delivered personally by Br Emili on the occasion of his participation in the Forum of The Marist Youth, he thanks Br Peter's availability for services to the Institute. At the same time, he expresses his gratitude to Br Jeff Crowe, Provincial, for the generous service he has given to the marist life and mission in the Institute and especially in Australia.

Brother Peter Carroll's profile

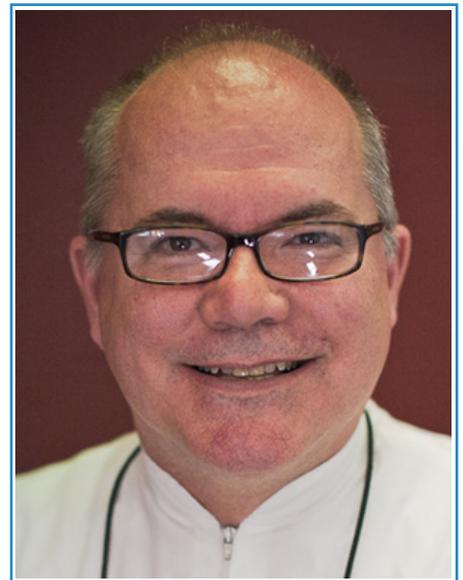
I was born in 1958 and raised in Bundaberg and Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. I was the middle of three children; my older sister died in 1979 and my younger sister lives with her husband and two sons in Brisbane.

After completing my secondary schooling at Marist College Ashgrove I commenced the Postulancy in 1977 and entered the Novitiate in 1978. I took first vows in January 1980 and made

Final Profession in 1986.

During the post-Novitiate period I completed studies at Macquarie University and post-graduate studies at what is today the Australian Catholic University.

From 1984 to 2012 my ministry was exclusively in secondary school education. I specialised in Religious Education and led these departments in three schools. I then moved into school leadership and spent 15 years as Principal of three Colleges: one in Queensland and two in New South Wales.



I was first elected to the Provincial Council of the former Sydney Province in 2003, elected to the Provincial Council of the Australian Province when it

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During this week's Plenary session, the general Council studied, among other things, the following issues: a Economic General report on a global vision of all administrative units and the guidelines of the International Council for Economic Affairs, the Institute areas that have particular need of attention and support, issues related to the translation work and the activities of the Communication section and the update of the calendar and the foresight for the next three years.

The International Commission Brothers Today, led by brothers Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez, held a meeting at the General House. It began on Tuesday 3 and will end on Saturday 7.

The evaluation Team of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), formed by brothers and lay people from all five continents, met in the General House from 2 to 4 February, to begin a review of the ten years of operation and reflect on the perspectives for the future.

On January 31 and February 1, Br João Carlos do Prado participated in the meeting of young Brothers of the Iberica Province, in Lardero, Spain.

Br Miguel Angel Espinosa, from the Mission Secretariat, was this week in Argentina attending a training meeting for teachers of Cruz del Sur Province.

Br Libardo Garzón, General Bursar, is in Nairobi, Kenya, attending the meeting of the Economic Commission of the MIC.

was formed in 2012 and appointed by Br Jeffrey Crowe as his Deputy Provincial at the same time. Over the past two years I have supported the Provincial, assisted with a range of pastoral matters and been involved in the professional standards area.

The good Lord has blessed me in many ways: having truly admirable parents, being raised in a loving home with supportive family, being called to the Marist way, being given so many opportunities over the past thirty years. I feel honoured and privileged to have been appointed

as Provincial of the Australian Province, and look forward to collaborating with many wonderful Marists, Brothers and Lay, both within and beyond Australia.



26 YEARS AS MISSIONARY IN AMAZONIA

Br Delvino Decezero

Delvino Decezero is a Marist Brother who spent 26 years as a missionary in the District of Amazonia. He returned to the Province of Rio Grande do Sul at the end of 2014. In this interview, conducted by Brother Sebastião Ferrarini, he tells us about his experience as Marist missionary. - See more at: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=3503#sthash.EFv4L6pK.dpuf>



Where did you carry out your mission?

It began in the city of Benjamin Constant, State of Amazonas, from 1988 to 1998. In 1999, I was sent to the inter-provincial community of Manaus, where I stayed until 2003. In 2004 and 2005, I was in Tarauacá, State of Acre. From January to April 2006, I went to Canutama, in the Purus River Valley, to close down the community. From 2006 to 2008, I was in the community of Porto Velho. From 2009 to 2011, I lived in Ji-Paraná, State of Rondônia. Since 2012, I am in Porto Velho.

We know about your hard work in the Marist District of Amazonia all these years. Why did you come to

Amazonia in the first place?

At that time, the Province of Porto Alegre was doing a beautiful pastoral work in two different areas of Alto Solimões: the Advanced Campus of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, and the brothers' community. I once spent a week there together with Brother Inácio Etges on the way back from Colombia, where we visited the REMAR project. Ten years later, I was invited to work in the region, and accepted with no hesitation.

What have been your main work areas?

In Benjamin Constant, I worked on three meaningful areas. The most important was the attention to students who came from five schools in the city, morning and afternoon, to the Champagnat Center. We taught 4 or 5 groups a week, and I say "we" because there were always a couple of brothers working there. I worked as youth ministry advisor for the diocese and the city youth groups. Training catechists was also part of my work. There was no community of brothers or sisters in Tabatinga at that time, so I had to direct many catechesis courses myself.

When I was in Manaus, the Provincials, along with a representative from each sector of the four Provinces working in the region, asked me to organize the Assembly that was to be held in January 2000.

A Superior and two counselors were elected in that Assembly. The task of Superior fell to me, and Brothers João Gutemberg and Gentil Meneguzzi became counselors. The Council's main task was to organize the establishment of the AMD (Amazonia Marist District), a new structure that was to come into effect in late July 2002. The District would include 10 communities, with 37 Brothers.

In Tarauacá, State of Acre, my main apostolate was the Pastoral Care of the Elderly. A group was already running. I organized four more groups, one in each neighborhood. I acted as Adviser to the groups. We founded the Elderly People Council of the city.

Was there any crucial fact, something especially meaningful in your work experience in this area?

In the city of Benjamin Constant, in May and November each year, I used to pray the Rosary in people’s houses on Marcellin Champagnat Street. During the day, the family that had hosted the image of Our Lady was in charge of carrying it to the next house and motivating the neighbors to participate in our prayer meeting. I did this for nine years. It was one of the most meaningful apostolic activities I ever lived, as well as the morning and afternoon formation sessions held in the same city for nine years.

What were the most important challenges you faced?

- The job as Superior for a three-year term to establish and organize the AMD.
- The so-called "annual sending", that is to say, publishing the list of appointments each year.
- Closing the community of Atalaia do Norte.
- Taking the first steps to establish a community of brothers in Rio Branco that could be "a symbol of newness".
- Directing the Marist Social and Educational Center (with the Portuguese acronym CESMAR) in Porto Velho, which lacked an adequate infrastructure, and had many needs.
- Closing the communities of Canutama and Ji-Paraná.

Now back to your homeland, Rio Grande do Sul, what would you say was your most meaningful experience in Amazonia?

After contemplating the immense rivers and forests in Amazonia, insignificant ideals and small undertakings were just not enough for me.

Another important experience was the opportunity to live and work with people from the States of Amazonas, Acre and Rondonia.

What would be your message to those who continue the mission in Amazonia?

When we established the AMD, brothers insistently asked for a community that could be "a symbol of newness". It was founded in Rio Branco, State of Acre.

My message would be that each AMD community should try to be a "symbol-of-newness community", which is also the Congregation’s current proposal during the Bicentennial celebration.

When the AMD started, we wrote a text entitled A Curumim’s Dream ("curumim" means "child" in Tupi-Guarani language) summarizing the kind of brother we wanted in Amazonia. I hope this document does not go lost and really becomes true.



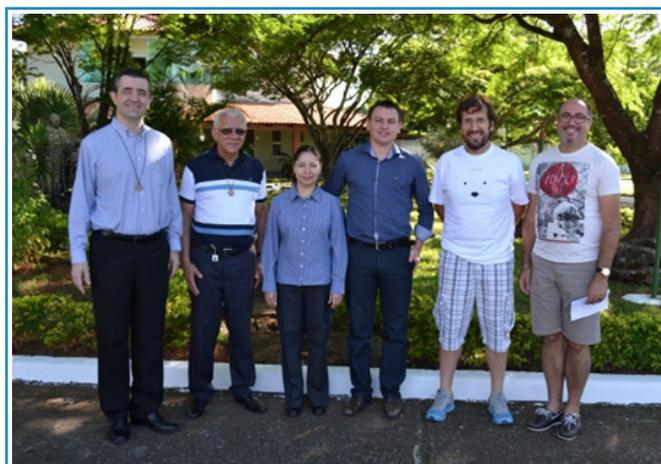
INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIALS

Meeting of the Inter-American Education Subcommittee

The Inter-American Education Subcommittee met from January 14 to 17 in the provincial house of Brasil Centro-Norte located in Brasilia.

The members of the Subcommittee are Mr. Ernesto José Reyes Plaza (Cono Sur), Mrs. Irma Zamarripa Valdez (Arco Norte), and Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco (Arco Norte), José Wagner Rodrigues da Cruz (Brazil), and Manuir Mentges (Brazil).

After the welcoming words and historical introduction by Brother Wellington Medeiros (Provincial of Brasil Cen-



What burned in Father Champagnat's heart as he made his way back to La Valla after encountering the young Montagne? What energy pulsed through him, leading him to found the Institute just a few months later? We might ask, are we not called to travel this same road again, allowing ourselves to be deeply challenged by the situation of the **young Montagnes** of today?

tro-Norte), we followed an intense work and reflection agenda. The main issues revolved around a proposal of Catholic identity for Marist schools, and the so-called "evangelize by educating" model, plus the resulting implications for the curriculum design and school management. These topics helped us visualize the reflection process in preparation for the 2016 III Inter-American Marist Education Meeting that will take place in Lima, Peru. The Subcommittee spent much time developing the internal logic and implementation of this preparation stage, as well as other significant processes that will take place before and after the meeting. We believe these efforts will enlighten and strengthen the shared commitment of the Marist Americas to offer a path of vitality that includes clear guidelines for the future of our continental presence and educational mission, under the perspective of the Marist bicentennial and the three horizons of the 21st General Chapter. We also met with the education coordinators of Brasil Centro-Norte, and with Brother Valter Zancanaro, Executive Secretary of UMBRASIL (Marist Association of Brazil).

Other topics:

1.Reception and use of the book *The School Director's Management at the Service of the Mission in the Provinc-*

es. All the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Administrative Units of the continent have received it and are now distributing and studying the book.

2.Publicity about the Master in Marist Education Management and registration for this online course sponsored by Marcellin Champagnat University of Lima and the Marist University of Guadalajara. At present, the first twelve students are near graduation. We expect new groups of students in February at both Universities.

3.Exchange program for executives between Provinces (internships lasting approximately one week) in order to become acquainted with other pedagogical or educational experiences. We studied the possible locations, and will send a list to the education coordinators in each Province, so that they can organize the participation of their executives in this formation initiative.

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I would like to thank the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte for their kindness and support.

Luis Carlos Gutiérrez



New President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, is a former student of the Marist brothers

On Saturday, January 31, the Italian Parliament elected Sergio Mattarella, a former Marist student, as new President of the Republic. He was several times Minister and parliamentary and since 2011 he was one of the judges of the Constitutional Court. He took office as President on February 3.

His father was from Palermo and when entering politics, he went to Rome. His

sons Sergio and Piersanti were then enrolled at San Leone Magno College.

In the presentation of the book "Piersanti Mattarella - alone against the mafia" on his brother murdered by the mafia, Sergio Mattarella intervened and spoke of his years of study at the college. A chapter of this book describes the experiences of all Mattarella, at San Leone Magno college, between 1948 and 1958.



Canonization of Champagnat 1999
Br Benito Arbués, S. Mattarella and F. Joaquín