

## ASSOCIATES FOR THE MISSION

Fourvière Year: 23 July 2015 – 23 2016

**E**s We are ending the Montagne Year and we are approaching the opening of the Fourvière Year (July 23, 2015 – July 23, 2016), on the journey of preparation for the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Institute. The theme will be "The Society of Mary: fraternity: associates for the mission (Brothers and Laity)".

This year of prayer and reflection will be celebrated by all the branches of the Marist Family, united to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Promise of Fourvière, on July 23, 2016, remembering the promise of 12 young priests, moved by a dream, in Lyon, France in 1816.

In the video of presentation of the three years of preparation for the Bicentenary of the Institute, the Superior General, Br. Emili Turú, reminds us and launches a challenge:

From the beginning, the first Marists

conceived the Society of Mary as a large tree with different branches: priests, brothers, sisters and lay people. The project was not recognized by the Church at that time; perhaps the historical situation was not yet ripe.

Today, circumstances are very different today. We gratefully acknowledge the fact that the Holy Spirit has made lay Marist vocations flourish among us. Thousands of lay men and women around the world feel called to live the Gospel like Mary, according to the tradition of Father Champagnat and the first brothers. The origins of the Society of Mary remind us that, as religious and laity, we come together for mission, and are called to be the Marian face of the Church through our particular way of being and building Church.

Our last General Chapter invited us to a new relationship between brothers and lay people, to better serve the inspiring



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mission entrusted to us by the Church. The same Chapter stated: we see our Marist future as a communion of people in the charism of Champagnat, open to the creativity of the Holy Spirit, who can lead us, perhaps, on paths we might never have imagined.

A prayer was composed, especially

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Council's plenary meetings, which had begun on June 8, ended on July 17.

A meeting of young brothers from East Central Africa Province (PACE) at Nairobi, Kenya, was held from July 19 – 21. Participants included general councillors Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez as well as Brother Hipólito Pérez, vice director of the secretariat 'Brothers Today.'

A meeting on the budget for MIUC and MIC is taking place also in Nairobi from July 20 – 23. Brother Joe McKee, vicar general, and the provincial brothers of the Conference of Africa, were among the participants.

Brother Tony León, director of the secretariat 'Brothers Today', is visiting formation houses in Asia and Oceania until August 5.

Brother Chris Wills, director of the secretariat 'Collaboration for Mission, International' (Cmi), is in Lebanon meeting with brothers and laity to discuss the 'Fratelli Project.'

Superior General Brother Emili Turú will be taking part in the general chapter of the Company of Mary.

dedicated to the Fourvière Year (by [Marist Family](#) and other by [Brother Emili](#)), to be used by all the branches of the Marist Family.

In the section of our Marist Web dedicated to the Fourvière Year it is possible to find some resources that can help the reflection of this year.

The Marist Family has also created a site ([www.maristinter.org](http://www.maristinter.org)) that offers material on the Bicentenary of the Promise.



# PROMISE OF FOURVIÈRE

## Combined letter from the Superior of the four branches of the Marist Family

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We are quickly approaching Fourvière Day, 23rd July 2015. This is the day on which we will begin our year-long preparation for the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge. In our letter of September 2014, we shared with you that, as Marist Family, we would like:

- to provoke a sense of curiosity and awe at the significance of the Fourvière Pledge for today;
- to foster an enhanced sense of Marist identity as "Marist Family";
- to boost a renewal of energy, hope, joy, motivation and commitment to the "work of Mary."

There are various ways in which each of us and our communities can enter into this important Marist Event. These include but are not limited to the following suggestions:

- Make use of the resources that have been prepared for personal and community reflections such as,
  - (a) a short history of the making of the pledge and what inspired it by Justin Taylor, S.M., together with a reflection on its significance for us today by François Drouilly, S.M.;
  - (b) a guide for a short series of three meetings for reflection and prayer for communities;
  - (c) a collection of contributions from young members of our Marist family on their hopes and dreams for the future, inspired by the young men of Fourvière, which will be published later on in the year. These and other



resources will be linked to each of our congregational websites.

- Encourage your communities to frequently visit the Website that has been dedicated for the dissemination of information on the Fourvière Event ([www.maristinter.org](http://www.maristinter.org)).
- In countries where there are representatives of each or several of the Marist family congregations and Marist laity, we encourage you to collaborate on preparing special gatherings throughout the year to share on the meaning of the Fourvière Pledge in your own lives as well as to use the prayer resources mentioned above for faith sharing following your times of personal reflection. One such gathering could be a combined pilgrimage to a local Marian shrine/church.

Plan a gathering in your respective countries for Fourvière Day, 23 July 2016, and celebrate the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge as Marist Family in communion with

those who will be gathered for the celebration in Lyon.

Consider sending a representative to participate in the Fourvière Day 2016 celebrations in Lyon, France. The celebration will begin with the Eucharistic Liturgy in the basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière at 10h30. A group of young people who will be participating in the International Marist Youth Gathering in Lyon will join in this celebration on Fourvière Day as the culminating event of their week-long session prior to World Youth Day in Poland. The Mass will be followed by a meal in a location near to the basilica.

Please encourage the Marists in your area to participate in this year of prayerful reflection on the Fourvière Pledge – to ponder its meaning for the first Marists who took

the Pledge in 1816 and its relevance in our own lives as Marists today, called to be a little of Mary’s presence in the world.

United in Mary, our first and perpetual superior

- Br Emili Turú FMS
- Sr Georgeanne Donovan SMSM
- Sr Grace Ellul SM
- F. John Hannan SM

General Superiors of the Marist Family - July 2015



# BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE GETS NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

## Brother Ataíde José de Lima will start in December



Brasil Centro-Norte.

According to a press release from the province, Br Ataíde received the news as “a great responsibility and does not doubt the presence and action of God, and the protection of Our Lady.”

The Marist stressed that “our aspirations, desires and limits are also opportunities to overcome them so I make the words of Mary unto the angel ‘let it be to me according to your will’ my own words, in the hope of being a reflection of the mercy and goodness of God for my brothers.”

Br Ataíde will take up office in December during the next provincial chapter, which will be held in the town of Mendes, within the state of Rio de Janeiro.

In his letter, Brother Emili thanked the current provincial, Br Wellington Mousinho de Medeiros, for his “excellent service provided during the six years of his mandate” and expressed “huge gratitude of the Brothers of the Province

and the General Council for his work.” Br Ataíde was appointed after a consultation was made with the Brothers who belong to the province, which include 16 states and the Federal District.

The Marist was born in Mogi das Cruzes. He has a degree in history from the Federal University of Goiás and a post graduate degree in higher education methodology of the Faculty of Education of the state of Minas Gerais.

Br Ataíde was director of the Marist College of Goiânia and was a formator at the formation houses of the Marist Brothers

Until he takes up office, he will continue his role as director secretary of the UBEE and UNBEC, as well as vice provincial of Brasil Centro-Norte, positions he has held since 2012.

He has been a member of the provincial council since 2009.

**T**he province of Brasil Centro-Norte will have a new superior in December for the next three years.

In a letter released July 13, Superior General Emili Turú announced the appointment of Brother Ataíde José de Lima as the new provincial superior of



# THE MARIST SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY COMMISSION

## Annual Session at the General House

The annual meeting of the Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission was held from 22 to 26 June. The General Council has re-appointed for a further 3 year term the members of the previous Commission and appointed two new ones: Brothers Colin Chalmers and Allan De Castro.



The Commission continued its work of preparing publications: Marist Notebooks and especially the History of the Institute, the 3 volumes which should be published before the next General Chapter in 2017. This session was also an opportunity for everyone to

share their work of research or training with brothers or lay people at different courses related to Patrimony. The awareness of the Bicentenary was very much part of their reflection, especially in a session devoted to the Constitutions.

The presence, at some sessions, of Brothers Eugène Kabanguka, Ernesto Sánchez, Tony Leon, Hipólito Pérez and Emili, encouraged the members of the Commission in their work, often "invisible" as Brother Emili said, but nevertheless important for the vitality of the Institute.



## Eleven new Marist Brothers in Africa

On the 13th of June 2015, eleven young men from the Province of Nigeria and the District of West Africa made their first vows at the local parish situated not far away from the novitiate of Kumasi, in Ghana. In attendance were Priests, Religious and the lay faithful who turned out in their numbers to support the newly professed Brothers.

The Bishop of Obuasi diocese where the novitiate is located celebrated the mass. In his homily Rev Peter challenged the novices to live out



their calling to the full. He reminded them that God who had called them had given them all that they needed so as to be good Religious. He urged them to discover their talents and to put them at the disposal

of the congregation and the church as a whole. Finally he reminded them of the need to always turn to God, live good lives and touch others positively because the Lord says in the Bible so well that every branch that bears no fruit is cut away but that which bears fruit is pruned so as to make it bear more fruits.

After the homily, the novices professed their vows, which were received by Brother Joachim, Provincial of Nigeria on behalf of the Superior General.

