

FILIPINO BROTHERS CELEBRATE PERPETUAL PROFESSION & SILVER JUBILEE

Final commitment made to live as Marist Brothers for the rest of their life

Two Marist brothers celebrated their perpetual profession while a third celebrated his silver jubilee during a Mass in the Philippines.

Brothers Nelson Beltran and Mark Roberth Laurea made their perpetual profession while Brother Noel Fernandez celebrated his twenty-fifth year as a brother in General Santos City on July 18.

The event included a reception at the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University after the two hour Mass celebrated by Marist Fathers in the parish of Saints Peter and Paul.

The country forms part of the East-Asia province of the Institute of the Marist Brothers.

Brothers Nelson and Mark had recently completed a thirty-day retreat in the Philippines and taken spirituality courses in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, which is a newly founded international Marist community.

Participants included the Marist Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Missionary Sisters



as well as family members of Brothers Nelson, Mark and Noel.



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A two-month spiritual course for Portuguese and Spanish-speaking elderly Brothers is running from Aug. 10 – Oct.10 in Manziana, Italy. Several Brothers from the general administration are guest speakers of the programme.
- The Post Perpetual Gier Programme for Brothers with 3 to 7 years of perpetual profession, which began on 13 Aug., will last for a total of five weeks in the General House and in L'Hermitage in France. The directors of the Secretariat Brothers Today and the formation teams from El Escorial and Manziana are accompanying the 20 participants. Brothers from the general council are presenting some topics.
- The General Council will hold its regular meeting on Aug. 24 in the general house in Rome.
- Br. Michael De Waas, General Councillor, is participating in Australia's Mission Assembly in Mittagong, from Aug. 20-23.

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE INSTITUTE

August 15: Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our devotion to Mary, like that of the Church, is expressed in love, confidence, and admiration, and by trying to make our own Mary's attitude towards God and people.

Like Father Champagnat, we go to Mary as a child to its mother.

By prayer, and by studying what the Church is saying about Mary, we seek to deepen our relationship with her.



Her great feastsdays, especially the Assumption, which is the patronal feast of the Institute, are special times for intensifying our devotion to this Good Mother.

Every day, we praise the Mother of God by reciting the Rosary, or by some other Marial prayer that reflects the mind of the Church.



TOGETHER WE ARE MOVING FORWARD AND WE WILL GO FAR

African Lay and Brothers Commission

On 15 July 2015 we came together at Sacred Heart Marist College in Johannesburg.

Four Marist Brothers and one Lay Marist prayed, worked, dreamed, planned, considered and celebrated together right through until 18 July.

The purpose of our coming together was to consider the Strategic Plan that our Commission had generated in Nairobi in July 2014 and to enhance that plan by incorporating the appropriate aspects of all of the developments that have taken place in the institute since then.

Br Erick Silali joined the old team of Br Elias Odinaka, Br John Kusi-Mensah, Br Ernest Randriatsoa and Mike Greeff.

Br Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa was unfortunately not able to join his Commission Brothers due to other com-

mitments. In Johannesburg the team took the opportunity to work through the outputs from II MIMA, from the recent Lay Animators Workshop conducted in Rome, the old plan and the document, The Basic Elements to Design the Global Framework of a Marist Vocational Process for the Laity.

We listened again to Br Emili's Champagnat Day message which focusses so fully on the role of the Laity; all in the heart-rending conditions that our Marist Blues in Aleppo are experiencing.

We re-analysed the African environment and, considering all of the above, we regenerated

the AL&BC Strategic Plan with more relevant and focussed content.

What we did realise was that much had been achieved since last year

Yes, there is still much to do but we had many successes to celebrate.

We applied our minds to the request from the Secretariat of the Laity to contribute thoughts and input to the Continental Commission meeting being planned for October 2016.



As we know in Africa; "If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together." Together we are moving forward and we will go far.



LAITY USING JESUIT TEACHING IN SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Lay Marists receive diploma in Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

Ten lay Marists of Chile received a diploma in Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Accompaniment – along with 60 local parishioners – with the aim of better accompanying other lay Marists.

Rossana Avendaño, one of the 10, underscored that "this doesn't end here, now begins our duty to accompany other lay Marists."

"I have discovered through them I have become a person more open to the action of the Spirit, they have given me the courage to break with past ties that prevented me from being totally free to love," she added during a Eucharistic celebration, which concluded the event.

According to Raúl Amaya, coordinator of the Marist spiritual and lay team of Chile (esp ori: coordinador del equipo de espiritualidad y laicado), "the diploma certifies



them to spiritually accompany others in this method, which is considered a treasure of the Church and that the Marists in Chile have been using for some years with lay people.”

“The Spiritual Exercises are a powerful means for people to have a profound experience of encountering Christ, to live a process of permanent spiritual conversion and to order one’s life in pursuit of what the Lord is asking of us,” he added in a statement given to the general house press office on July 21.

He told how the 10 lay Marists had been “invited in partnership with the Ignatian Spirituality Centre” to do the year-and-a-half course.

“(The Spiritual Exercises) is a spiritual school that forms a discerning heart, rooted in Christ,” he explained.

The course included classes, readings and reports of various documents, practical exercises of accompaniment,



and experiencing the Exercises themselves.

Raúl stressed that the spiritual and lay team of Chile hopes to form laity so that they can take up “the tasks of formation, accompaniment and animation of brothers and laity.”



Post Perpetual Gier Programme (Aug. 13 – Sept. 20)

