

POST PERPETUAL GIER PROGRAMME SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE BROTHERS

Programme for middle-aged Marists aims at 're-enchanting their calling,' says coordinator

A course aimed at Marist brothers in their 30s and 40s is hoping to see them through difficult times, according to one of the organisers.

"We felt there was a need for some input at this age group since it's a moment in many brothers' lives where they've had a war with big questions of sustainability with consecrated life," said Brother Tony Leon, one of the programme's organisers.

"I think it's normal because statistics say it's a difficult time in marriage after seven to 10 years so this is meant to re-enchant their original sense of calling and to un-

derstand that Marist consecrated life today has a very exciting prospect of possibilities," he said on Aug. 26.



Twenty brothers are taking part in the first course ever geared towards those

in their middle ages, known as the 'Post Perpetual Gier Program.'

The five-week programme began on Aug. 13 in the general house in Rome. After two weeks, the brothers will visit L'Hermitage in France before returning to Rome for the final week.

"Hopefully, this course will get them to think that this isn't as good as it gets, the best is yet to come so we need to have our perceptions shattered," said Br Tony, also director of the 'Brothers Today' secretariat.

He underscored that "religious life is going beyond our nationality, congre-

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, is in Lebanon until Aug. 31. He took part in the formation meeting with a group of 'Blue Marists' from Syria, which ended Sept. 3. Today he is taking part in a meeting with the brothers involved in the 'Fratelli Project.'
- Brother Michael De Waas, general councillor, is taking part in a seminary in the international novitiate of Tudela, Sri Lanka from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3.
- Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the secretariat of laity, is accompanying lay people of Chile from Sept. 5 – 8.
- Brother Miguel Ángel Espinosa, vice-director of the secretariat of mission, is visiting the province of Canada from Sept. 5 – 11.

gation and even beyond our faith," reflecting on the work the Marists do side by side with Muslims in Lebanon and in Syria as well as with Buddhists in other parts of the world.

"We're only discovering this in terms of internationality, 'inter-culturality', 'inter-congregationality,' and the communities of brothers and lay," Br Tony remarked.

"The new international communities is an artwork still in the process of being created."

"It's going very well, the brothers have expressed a real sense of privilege to be the first of this programme," he told the general house press office.

The secretariat of Brothers Today as well as the formation teams from Manziana, Italy, and El Escorial, Spain, are leading the programme.

"It's been a privilege to be here participating with brothers of different cultures," said Brother Rajakumar Soosaimanickam.

"There is a richness of diversity which I enjoy very much."

"(The course) is about understanding ourselves and preparing ourselves to live in international communities," added Br Rajakumar, who travelled from India.

For many of the brothers, this marks

their first trip to Europe and to the home of the Institute's founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, in France.

"It will be my first time in France so I am looking forward to see the table and bed he used," said Br Odo Nathaniel Uchenna, who lives in Nigeria.

"I'm longing for that visit in order to nourish my spirituality."

Archbishop Jorge Patrón Wong (in the centre of the picture), who is secretary for seminaries of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, visited the group on Aug. 26.



17 ELDERLY BROTHERS MEET IN ITALY

Seventeen elderly Brothers are participating in a course of spirituality in the small town of Manziana, close to Rome (Italy).

Marists between 70 and 80 years of age, Spanish and Portuguese speaking, are taking part in a two-month program called "Amanecer" - Dawn or daybreak - lasting until October 10.

The course which began on August 10, is organized for brothers "who wish to participate and have the opportunity to stop once again on the way", as Brother Javier Ocaranza said.

Br. Javier added that it is for those who wish "to find themselves and find the Lord serenely through the years that they have lived and get new force to live fully and in peace".

According to Brother this is also an invitation to "feel that he continues to have an important role in life and in the mission of the Institute, and make a rich experience of sharing with his brothers and be leaven of fraternity, hope and service".

Br. Javier said that an expectation is "to live the fraternal experience of a community life that participates and is warm, attentive and joyful towards others".

Other expectations are "to heal areas which have not been healed and to abandon oneself to the merciful love of God; to have long periods of time of interior silence, prayer, contact with nature, with oneself, with the brothers."

To draw up their life project so that when they arrive to their communities, they may enrich them with their lived experience in the course and be bearers of true hope, joy and love "Mystics and Prophets", he added.

The organizing team is formed by Brothers Landelino Ortego Guerrero (Norandina, Director of the course), Francisco Javier Ocaranza Sáinz (Western Mexico sub-director of the course) as executives and Marist Father Díaz García Mauricio (Mexico, Chaplain of the course).



First Assembly of Marist Association of St Marcellin

The first gathering of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat was held in Australia from Aug. 20 – 23.

Sixty – four members of the Association gathered at the Hermitage, Mittagong, in a meeting that was very similar in its purpose and dynamic to a Brothers’ provincial chapter.

“Many delegates commented that this Assembly was one of the most powerful experiences of their lives,” said Brother Michael Green, the national director of Marist Schools Australia.

“They left Mittagong with a sense of awe of the God who was doing great things in their midst, and committed, like Mary, to set out for the hill country, as Marists together, to bring the Gospel alive in

the hearts of young people through the education and care of them, and advocacy on their behalf,” he told the general house press office on Aug. 24.



Br Michael noted that “in a very prayerful, joyful and engaging manner, the delegates discussed the progress of the Association, set its priorities for the next three years, and nominated the eight members of the first council of the Australian Conference of the Association.”

The encounter had been preceded by regional meetings around the country, in

which 550 other members fed into the process.

A major focus of the assembly was to receive the imperatives proposed by MIMA II and to imagine how the members of the association could be ‘mystics and prophets’ in their local Australian contexts, and in communion with one another as Marists.

During the next three years, once approved by the Holy See, the Marist Association (Australian Conference) will take over from the Marist Brothers (Australian Province) all responsibility (both canonical and civil) for Marist schools and ministries. It will also take full leadership for its own life and mission as a new entity of Marists.



Calendar of general council & directors of secretariats

- 31 Aug. – 3 Sept:** Formation meeting of a group of “Blue Marists” (Aleppo, Syria) – Lebanon: Emili Turú
- Sept. 1 – 5:** Seminar on the international novitiate – Tudela, Sri Lanka: Michael De Waas
- Sept. 4:** Meeting with the Brothers participating in the “Fratelli Project – Middle East” – Lebanon: Emili Turú
- Sept. 05 – 08:** Encounter with laity – Santiago, Chile: Javier Espinosa
- Sept. 5 – 11:** Visit of the the Secretariat of Mission of the Canadian Province – Miguel Ángel Espinosa
- Sept. 7 – 13:** Retreat in Veranópolis of the Brothers of Rio Grande do Sul Province – Brazil: Josep Maria Soteras, Eugène Kabanguka and Víctor Preciado
- Sept. 07 – 15:** Visit to the Pakistani community: Joe Mc Kee and Michael De Waas
- Sept. 09 – 12:** Encounter with the laity – Buenos Aires, Argentina: Javier Espinosa
- Sept. 12 – 20:** Training seminar on the rights of children in MAPAC – Manila, Philippines: Manel Mendonza
- Sept. 12 – 25:** Visit of the Secretariat of Mission to the provinces Brasil Centro-Sul and Brasil Centro-Norte –

- Miguel Ángel Espinosa
- Sept. 14 – 19:** III Inter-American Conference of Provincials – Curitiba, Brasil: Josep Maria Soteras, Eugène Kabanguka, Víctor Preciado, Javier Espinosa, Chris Wills and Miguel Ángel Espinosa
- Sept. 16 – 20:** Interamerican Marist Encounter for Vocation Ministry – Guatemala: Ernesto Sánchez
- Sept. 20:** End of the Post Perpetual Gier Programme for Brothers who made perpetual profession 3 – 7 years ago – Rome, Italy
- Sept. 20 – 29:** Visit to the communities of the Amazon district – Brazil: Víctor Preciado
- Sept. 21 – 22:** Encounter of the provincials of Arco Norte – Curitiba, Brazil: Eugène Kabanguka and Víctor Preciado
- Sept. 24 – 26:** Mission Assembly of the Province of Compostela – Valladolid, Spain: Joe Mc Kee and Antonio Ramalho
- Sept. 25 – 26:** Meeting of the Committee on the International Gathering of Marist Youth Lyon 2016, Miguel Ángel Espinosa
- Sept. 25 – 27:** Encounter of animators of the pastoral

youth of Ibérica – Lardero, Spain: Emili Turú
Sept. 27 – 30: Chapter of the province of Australia– Joe Mc Kee
Sept. 28 – 30: European Commission of Laity – Guardamar, Spain: Javier Espinosa
Sept. 29: Regular Council
Oct. 05 – 07: Encounter of the Marist NGOs in Europe – Rome: FMSI
Oct. 05 – 14: International Colloquium on the Initial Formation – Hermitage, France: General Council and Directors of the Secretariats
Oct. 09 – 13: Visit to the Marist works of Honduras: João Carlos do Prado
Oct. 10: End of the course for the elderly brothers of Portuguese and Spanish – Manziana, Italy
Oct. 12 – Dec. 12: Course for third age English speaking Brothers – General House, Italy
Oct. 15 – 24: International Secretariat of the Laity – Sidnei, Austrália: Javier Espinosa
Oct. 17 – 18: Celebration of 50 years of Marist presence in Cameroon: Emili Turú
Oct. 17 – 31: Visit to Cruz do Sul: Eugène Kabanguka and Víctor Preciado
Oct. 19 – 23: Mission Assembly of Arco Norte – Guatemala
Oct. 21: Regular Council
Oct. 21 – 24: Encounter on the financial autonomy of the

provinces of Africa and Asia – Madagascar – Víctor Preciado, Mario Meuti and Libardo Garzón
Oct. 22 – 23: Team meeting of MAPAC – Manila, Philippines: Joe Mc Kee
Oct. 24: Encounter of the congregations of Brothers – Rome: Emili Turú, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez, Tony Leon and Hipólito Pérez
Oct. 25 – 29: Encontro da Conferência Europeia de Provinciais (CEM) – Greece: Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho
Oct. 25 – 29: Encounter of the council of the Asia district: Joe Mc Kee
Oct. 25 – 29: Meeting of the Co-directors of the Secretariat of Laity – Ilhas Salomão: Javier Espinosa
Oct. 26 – 27: Meeting of the European Mission Team – Athens, Greece: Miguel Ángel Espinosa and João Carlos do Prado
Oct. 27 – 28: Meeting of the Control Committee of the Bedford Fund – Johannesburg, South Africa: Libardo Garzón
Oct. 27 – Nov. 3: Chapter of the province Cruz del Sur – Argentina: Víctor Preciado
Oct. 30 – Nov. 12: Retreat of brothers and laity and encounter with the Commission on the Laity – Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil: Javier Espinosa
Oct. 30 – Nov. 03: International Council of Economic Affairs – Johannesburg, South Africa: Libardo Garzón, Mario Meuti



Br José María Ferre (right) trains Br Pau Fornells (left) for the role as secretary of the superior general



Lebanon: Br Emili with a group of "Blue Marists" of Aleppo, Syria



Madagascar: annual retreat of the Brothers



France: Post Perpetual Gier Program



Brazil: vocational week in Recife



Colombia: Mission Assembly in Cali