

## GENERAL HOUSE OF MARIST BROTHERS OFFERS TO TAKE IN REFUGEES

Superior General appeals to European Provincials to do the same

The general house of the Marist Brothers is offering to take in Syrian refugees after the Pope issued a strong appeal to the entire European Church to take in migrant families during his Angelus prayer on Sept. 6.

"Both members of the general council and myself give our full commitment to this wonderful initiative, offering the general house immediately to welcome a family," said superior general Brother Emili Turú in an appeal issued on Sept. 8 to Brothers Provincial of Europe to do the same.

In an interview with the general house press office on Sept. 7, he revealed

that he is "immediately going to get in touch with Caritas and see how we can coordinate."



"It's a concrete way to give a response to this emergency that there is in Europe," he remarked.

He recalled the time when the general

house also took in refugees, from Eritrea, when he was studying in Rome in the 1980s.

"The emergency now is in which way can we welcome them and make them feel at home," he affirmed. "We need to see how we can coordinate and what families need to be attended."

His comments came after Pope Francis issued a strong appeal to the entire European Church, including the Vatican, to take in migrant families during the Sunday Angelus.

"In the imminence of the Year of Mercy, I make an appeal to the parishes, to religious communities, to monas-

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- From Sept. 7 – 13, the General Councillors, Brothers Josep Maria Soterias, Eugène Kabanguka and Víctor Preciado, are participating in a retreat of the brothers of the Rio Grande do Sul province in Veranópolis, Brasil.
- From Sept. 7 – 15, Vicar General Brother Joe McKee and Br Michael De Waas are visiting Marist communities in Pakistan.
- From Sept. 9 – 12, the director of the Secretariat of Laity, Br Javier Espinosa, is participating in a meeting with laity in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- From Sept. 12 – 20, Br Manel Mendoza, of the FMSI office in Geneva, is directing a seminary on the rights of children in MAPAC, Filipinas.
- On Sept. 12, Br Miguel Ángel Espinosa, vice-director of the Secretariat of Mission, will visit Brasil Centro Sur and Brasil Centro-Norte provinces.

teries, and sanctuaries of all Europe to express the concreteness of the Gospel, and to welcome a family of refugees,” remarked the pontiff on Sept. 6.

In his appeal letter to all Brothers Provincial in Europe, Br Emili encouraged them to do the same. “I encourage you, dear brothers, for

all of us to be on the side of Pope Francis, supporting his initiative and making our church a place of welcome, kindness and mercy,” he stated.

“I’m sure love’s creativity will stimulate you to find the best ways to provide the most appropriate responses in each case,” he added.

Br Emili was in Lebanon from Aug. 29 – Sept. 5 to meet with ‘Blue Marists’ from Syria and two brothers involved in the ‘Fratelli Project’ – a newly launched project aimed at integrating refugees in Lebanese schools and getting them off the streets.



## America Lay subcommittee holds annual meeting in Guatemala

The Marist Training Centre in Guatemala welcomed the Lay Subcommittee of America from Aug. 25 – 29 for their annual meeting.

Brother Javier Espinosa, director of the Secretariat of the Laity, also accompanied the work.

The team began revisiting the Global Framework document, which refers to vocational itineraries for laity, as well as processes of ‘linking and belonging’.

This is the most significant effort of the Institute, which should involve, little by little, all the provinces.

Then they discussed the proposals for creating training courses for lay accompanists in each region.

They reflected on the fact that accompaniment is an essential element in vocational paths, as can be seen in the experiences of the province of Santa Maria de los Andes, in which about 80 lay people are being accompanied, and about 50 in the province of Central America.

Regarding the three regions of America, the preparation of three courses in Guatemala, Chile and Brazil are being reviewed.

Other issues discussed included: course for lay animators, which took place in Rome in May; the encounter of the continental commission of the laity in Oct. 2016; the document on the joint vocations ministry; and the vocabulary of Marist terms.

In view of greater cooperation, the Subcommittee held two colloquiums: with Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez, president of CIAP, and with Brother Carlos Velez, of the spirituality committee, brothers and lay people, which is part of the Subcommittee.



Both stressed the importance of joint and integrated work of the various organizations to make better use of resources and of developing the mission.

The Subcommittee took the opportunity to resume the strategic plan of the committee of spirituality, brothers and lay people and make the plan for 2016.

Most notably, we see the importance of investing in the relationship with all the provinces, be it to propagate what is already being done, or to create spaces for sharing and communion among the continent’s laity.

The Subcommittee had the opportunity to meet lay Marists who are doing their vocational journey in the province of Central America. Lay people participate in the formation process of the common experience of the charism of Champagnat.

In the picture: members of the subcommittee with the Guatemalan lay group in the process of vocational discernment.



# A MARIST AND A LA SALLE BROTHER ARRIVE TO LEBANON TO HELP DISPLACED CHILDREN

## A Marist and a La Salle Brother arrive to Lebanon to help displaced children

**A** Marist and a De La Salle Brother have arrived to Lebanon to begin a project together that aims to help educate displaced refugee young people as an investment in their future.

Brother Miquel Cubeles, a Marist brother of the L'Hermitage province from Barcelona, arrived to Beirut to launch the 'Fratelli Project' with Brother Andrés Porras Gutiérrez, a De La Salle brother from Mexico.

The new community, which will include initially just the two Brothers, will be one of the few inter-congregational communities that the Marists are involved in worldwide.

"I feel the strength of Jesus within me and I think that this is my first support," Br Miquel told the general house press office. "A second support will be the fact that we'll be working together – it's not me just me going, it's the Marist Institute, the Church and the rest of the Brothers with whom we'll be living together."

Br Miquel stressed that "we should receive the maximum support from each other, knowing how to be a community, a fraternity and brothers for each other."

The Spaniard, who has labelled the

project as a "truly courageous commitment of the Marist Institute," travelled to Beirut on Sept. 3, two days after Br Andrés.

The Brothers expect to make concrete plans for their work during the upcom-

ing days and months, once they see where they are needed the most.

According to Br Miquel they will "initially be in neighbourhoods of Beirut, and live in our own religious community, and then we will settle where we see that the need is most urgent." "I wish – and I say this with all my heart – that we really know how to go where nobody goes, that where there is a lonely child, without a reference, he is able to find a Brother," Br Miquel remarked.

Their work will be known as the 'Fratelli Project', an inspiration by the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis to all consecrated people in November that resulted in the agreement of the Marist Brothers and the Brothers of the Christian Schools to launch this project.



Br Andrés underscored that "we are not going with a clear project, but rather to listen, to know the reality, to see what we can do with the help of locals."

"If we are going to begin a project, it should be with those most in need," said the Mexican. "We don't want to replicate something that already exists or go with children and youth that are already being assisted, but rather with the most hopeless, vulnerable and those who don't have any support or family."

"I receive this invitation as a gift," said Br Miquel, who lived until now in Barcelona, Spain. "It is a new opportunity for me to reinforce and to design my life as a Brother with more value in this new beginning."

He noted that it was a "great surprise" when superior general Brother Emili Turú asked him to head this project in Lebanon.

"I thought it wasn't for me because I saw it as a challenge that was too big because of the country's situation, because of my age and because I was

doing a mission in Barcelona that I think also involves the peripheries, that it's useful and that I was enjoying very much," said Br Miquel. "The Fratelli project is a challenge for me, it encourages me to strengthen and live my vocation more deeply and to respond today to this concrete ne-

cessity," he added. On his encounter with Br Andrés he said "we've met, we've clicked and I think we'll make a good team." "But we will obviously not work alone, nor do we want to live alone," he stressed. "We want to form a

community with as many as possible, collaborate and partner up with many other people and count on our Brothers and lay people present there to assist these children and youths."



## Brothers live an intense time of fraternal life in France

Every year, at the end of August, all the community Superiors of the Province of L'Hermitage are invited by the Secretariat of Brothers Today to meet during two days, alternatively, in Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, or in the Marist Monastery of Les Avellanés in Catalonia. This year for the 5th time, approximately fifty Superiors from Algeria, Catalonia, France,

Greece, Hungary and Switzerland lived an intense time of fraternal life in l'Hermitage. Two days well organized with a rhythm of times of sharing in groups, of prayer, of information on the Province and the Institute. This is the occasion to launch the theme for reflection which will inspire the drawing up of the community Project of Life for the new year: Together

let us live the Promise of Fourvière. Brother André Lanfrey introduced the reflection by means of a very well documented presentation on the sources and the historical context of the form of July 23, 1816. After, each one was invited to update for himself, his community or the Province the « promise of Fourvière » in writing and in sharing it with the others.



Solomon Islands: St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School, students posing for a photo



Lebanon: Br Andrés Porrás FSC from the Fratelli Project (right) with Br Ildefonso FSC



Bolivia: Marist educators in Vila Marista of Santa Cruz



Italy (General House): Community feast



France (Taize): Post Perpetual Gier Programme



United States: Saint Joseph Academy, Brownsville