

75 MARISTS ARE GATHERING TO DISCUSS CHANGES ON FORMATION OF BROTHERS

'We want to see updates,' says one of the organisers

Seventy-five Marists are gathering in L'Hermitage for 10 days early October to discuss ways of improving the formation process of young brothers.

"We want to see updates on the 'Constitutions and Statutes' and 'Formation Guides' books," said Brother Tony Leon, one of the organisers of the encounter and director of the secretariat 'Brothers Today.'

house press office on Sept. 24. "The suggestions, in turn, will be studied and decided by the delegates of the

sion of Brothers Today, is taking place in L'Hermitage from Oct. 4 - 14.

Br Tony hopes one of the changes in formation includes the need for the new Brothers to learn a new language or have an experience outside their own linguistic zone.

"I'd like to see the Brothers of the future receive formation to equip them to serve the Institute, rather than just the Province," he remarked.



"The objective is to present suggestions to the general council to take to the general chapter in 2017 in Rionegro (Colombia)," he told the general

chapter." The 'Marist International Colloquium about Initial Formation,' which is organised by the international commis-

According to Br Tony, the Marists need to have "a courageous conversation" and "to have the humility to step out of their role to listen to young broth-

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Vicar general Br Joe McKee attended the second chapter of the Province of Australia, held from 27 to 30 September.
- Director of the Secretariat of the Laity Br Javier Espinosa took part in the meeting of the European Commission lay in Guardamar, Spain, on 29 and 30 September.
- Econome General Br Libardo Garzón was in Montreal and New York, with Brother Yvon Bedard dealing with matters related to the Bedford Fund from 19 - 27 September.

ers, the laity, provincials, coordinators and others on how they would like to see the new ways of being a brother."

"We want everybody to have the opportunity to have a voice," he stated. "It's a call of inter-culturality and of going to the peripheries."

"We want to respond to the call of the general chapter that it's not just 'business as usual'," he added.

During the conference, participants will examine the current formation process and the results of a three-month survey.

The survey had been sent to all formators involved in aspirancy, postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate as well as to Brothers in initial formation, provincials, district superiors and a few laity in connection with forma-

tion. They will participate in workshops on inter-culturality, 'mystics and prophets,' accompaniment, supervision, communication in social media, and the 'Marian face.'

A keynote speaker will be Father Michael McGuire, a Columban priest based in the Philippines who holds a PhD in clinical psychology and has vast experience in psycho-spiritual integration.

Other speakers will include vicar general Brother Joe McKee on Saint Marcellin Champagnat as a formator and superior general Brother Emili Turú on the topic 'formation for a new beginning.'

Young brothers and lay people will discuss in shared tables how they would like to see the type of brother formed in their common ministry in the future.

"Formation is like parenting and it's such a sensitive issue because a parent would never tell another parent 'you shouldn't raise your kids like that,'" explained Br Tony.

"We would like the formator to look at guidance through the lens of a formator of the 21st century in a time where boundaries have shifted," he added.

Br Tony underscored that the Marists should be "brothers without borders" and that "borders could be cultural, geographical, religious and congregational."

"It's not just about being brothers for brothers, there's much more in a Marist community," he stressed.

The logo of the encounter is based on the statue of St Marcellin who is placing his hand on a young man receiving formation.



TWO CONGREGATIONS LAUNCH DOCUMENTARY ON REFUGEE PROJECT IN LEBANON

Patriarch Bechara Boutros Rai: 'Thank you for your presence'

The Marist brothers and the De La Salle brothers have officially launched 'The Fratelli Project' documentary explaining how they are helping refugee children in Lebanon.

The video, released on Sept. 29, includes an interview with the head of the Catholic Maronite Church, Patriarch Bechara Boutros Rai, who praises their work and presence in the country.

It also includes testimonies of the two general superiors, Brothers Emili Turú (FMS) and Robert Schieler (FSC) as well as the two leaders of the project themselves – Brothers Miquel Cubeles (FMS) and Andrés Porras Gutiérrez (FSC).



This inter-congregational project hopes to extend its work outside the Middle East to other places where children

and young people suffer from conflict. It is an open invitation to other congregations who also wish to collaborate.

For the full video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRV-vgiEw6B4>.



AS A MARIST COMMUNITY WE HAVE INTENSELY LIVED THE "HURRICANE FRANCIS"

Impressions of the community of Cienfuegos on the visit of the Pope

Pope Francis visited Cuba from the 19th to the 22nd of September, before travelling to the United States. The Marists of the community of Cienfuegos share with us their impressions on the presence of the Pontiff in the country.

Following are some impressions which do not intend to be a highly praised analysis of this visit, but a quick sharing of something we have reflected upon and especially experienced during these days.

These have been four days preceded by four months, that like Cuban Church and as Marist community we have lived intensely the "hurricane Francis", days of joy, of hope, of listening, of some fear and concerns, and also of much movement and hard work. Mass media has covered the all the preparation before the visit, and during the visit, something absolutely unusual in the Island. Hopefully these will be days that will be transformed into graces and an appeal to renew ourselves in our religious and missionary commitments.

Here are some brief impressions.

On his arrival to the airport of Habana, the Pope emphasized the "apostolic" character of his visit. At the end he added some delicate insinuations with implications of a social slant: "...that

the Church continues accompanying and encouraging the Cuban people in its hopes and concerns with freedom and with the necessary means and spaces to take the announcement of the Kingdom". And at the end: "I will have the occasion to go to El Cobre, as



a son and a pilgrim, to ask our Mother for all her Cuban children and for this dear Nation, so that it will follow the paths of justice, peace, liberty and reconciliation".

The Eucharist, both in Habana as in Holguín, as compared with previous celebrations, gained in it Caribbean

taste: in active participation of the communities, in the spirit of prayer and of listening, in enculturation. It seemed to us that both Masses significantly brought together less people than the previous visits, and this made us happy, because these were not "blown up"

assemblies but rather more real in the Cuban Church, which is a minority Church. In Habana the words of the Pope invited us, not "to use others to serve us but to serve, to take care of the fragility or weakness of our neighbor". In the homily at Holguín he commented the conversion of Matthew as a "play of looks" in which it is always "Jesus the one who looks first" and he insisted in "allowing his look to give us back happiness, hope and the joy of life". The silence with which the Pope was followed in the respective homilies really made the "hair stand up on end".

The encounter with the young people was emotional, the words of the boy who spoke to the Pope were frank, realistic, direct; in his response Francis left aside the discourse that he had prepared for the occasion and improvised

a message in which he invited those present to dream, to tell our dreams, to be a land of encounter, to dialogue, to promote social friendship, not to close ourselves up in "little convents", but to live and let hope be contagious.

The moment when we saw the Pope more touched was in the meeting with the religious Sisters, Seminarians, priests and religious men in the Cathedral of Habana. Here also he left aside the message that he had prepared and he encouraged us to be a Church that is poor, ready to carry on our mission in the midst of limitations and restrictions, privileging attitudes of mercy and having the preference for

the last ones.

The Encounter with the animators of the Mission Houses in El Cobre had a stressed Marian character. Inside the Shrine we gathered together approximately 1000 persons and outside perhaps twice the number, simple persons who came from the neighborhoods, the suburbs and outbuildings of the sugar refineries from all the Dioceses of Cuba. Fervor became present through the enthusiasm of the Cuban rhythms that thundered in a full Basilica. The Pope encouraged us "to go out of the house", just like Mary in the visitation and to contribute to the "revolution of tenderness".

Francis is a Pope who speaks with

words and gestures. Through his open smile and his closeness to the people, his embraces and caresses to the children, the disabled persons, elderly persons, he encouraged us to become present in the existential peripheries taking joy and consolation. He is especially loved in Cuba because besides having a charismatic personality that attracts, he is contributing to the diplomatic thaw in the relationships with the Government of the United States and in helping both peoples to get closer to one another. Almost all his interventions ended with the humble "and do not forget to pray for me, or at least to wish me good things".



DARE TO DREAM

International Encounter of Marist Youth (EIJM)

Dare to dream has begun! It is a place of encounter, listening, dialogue and commitment of the world's Marist youth in view of the International Encounter of Marist Youth (EIJM).

On Sept. 25 and 26, the preparatory committee reviewed the general purpose of the meeting.

The path is ready: from July 17 – 23 2016, Lyon will receive the enthusiasm of more than 400 young people from the four Marist branches.

The doors are now open, the celebration of the promise at Fourvière 200 years ago by a few young seminarians, and the preparation of the bicentennial of the founding of the Marist Brothers will be the framework of our meeting.



To help connect the hearts and dreams of young Marists from around the world, the itinerary "Dare to Dream" has been proposed, which you can find on the official conference site: <http://www.lyon2016dare-todream.com>.

To begin weaving the networks of the encounter depends only on you. Here are some proposals to begin the dialogue.

We wish, as Marists, to dare to dream this new beginning!



MEETING OF MARIST NGO'S OF EUROPE

Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI)

FMSI organizes the meeting of Marist NGO's of Europe, which will be held in Rome on the 5, 6 and 7 of next October. The addressees of this encounter are those who are responsible for the NGO's and solidarity offices of the Marist Institute in Europe.

The themes that will be discussed during this meeting are related to those already presented to the NGO's of the American Continent (Guatemala City, 17-19 of August 2015); the objectives

are the following:

- To share working plans for the animation of solidarity and promotion of the rights of the child in the Institute at Continental level.
- To promote the incorporation themes of infancy in the NGO's and Marist organisms of solidarity of the Continent.
- To strengthen the work in networks among the Marist NGO's and solidarity bodies.
- To reflect on the image of solidarity that exists in the Marist Institute.
- To unify the policy of the protection of infancy of the NGO's in the Institute.
- To establish the bases for the functioning of the Marist Network of NGO's, identifying the objectives and the activities.



France: Course 'Amanecer 2015' (Manziana) with the community of Notre Dame de L'Hermitage



Brazil: Marist Social Centre of Porto Alegre, Cesmar



Spain: Lardero - Meeting with young people of the Province Ibérica



Australia: New provincial council includes Ken McDonald, Jeff Barrington, Peter Carroll, Paul Kane, Darren Burge, Michael Callinan, Greg McDonald



Hong Kong: Brothers of the community of Kowloon - St. Francis Xavier College