

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Project plans move forward with more details on formation for candidates

The planning and formation team for the International Communities for a New Beginning project gathered in Rome from Oct. 16 – 19 for further planning, focusing on the formation program for candidates among other issues.

The team met with the planning and management committee – Vicar General Brother Joe Mc Kee, Econome General Brother Libardo Garzón, Brothers Today secretariat director Brother Tony Leon and Brother Chris Wills, Collaboration for Mission International (Cmi) secretariat director – at the General House to discuss details on how to prepare future community members.

Although the location still needs to be agreed, the months of May and June of 2016 have been set as the two months



of formation for the candidates.

The project requires each Marist region – Oceania, Africa, Europa, Arco Norte and Brasil-Cono Sur – to propose two communities or more, consisting of four Marists and having at least three Brothers, by 2017. Asia, the home of the Marist District of

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From Oct. 25 – 29, the meeting of the Marist European Conference of Provincials (CEM) took place in Athens, Greece. General councilors Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Ernesto Sánchez took part in the event. The meeting of the European Mission Team was held at the same place on Oct. 26 and 27, with the participation of Brothers João Carlos do Prado y Miguel Ángel Espinosa of the Secretariat of Mission. Yesterday's meeting of the district council of Asia, which included Vicar General Brother Joe McKee, came to its closure.

From Oct. 25 – 29, the three directors of the Secretariat of the laity, Brothers Javier Espinosa, Pep Buetas and Tony Clarke met in the Solomon Islands.

From Oct. 27 – 30, the Control Committee of the Bedford Fund met in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the participation of the econome general Brother Libardo Garzón.

Asia (MDA), which began as a Mission Ad Gentes project, is already considered as integrating the international communities for a new beginning.

The General Council affirmed it is looking forward to each region establishing at least one community by the end of next year.

Provincials and District Superiors are compiling a list of candidates who wish to be members of these communities, submitting the names to the Superior General for consideration. Candidates can expect to be contacted by the team soon with a request for information so that personal profiles can be created to assist the process.

The formation team for the project, appointed by the General Council, is made up of Brothers Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina. They will direct the formation programme and be members of the accompaniment teams for each of the proposed communities.

During their encounter, the project team proposed that the formation be centred on a two-month experiential program arranged in accommodation clusters and having common meeting place. The aim is to develop the spirit of intercultural living as a key process of the formation.

"This project is important because it is a major strategy of the Institute and it has been discussed in all recent meetings," said Br Chris.

Superior General Brother Emili Turú published a letter in March, titled Montagne, the dance of the mission, in which he appealed to Marists "to discern, before God, whether you feel called to leave your home country to form part of an international community in another region of the world."

The vision statement of the project invites Marists "to commit ourselves to responding with new and daring ways to the changing and urgent situations of our world of today."

The statement notes that "the duration of the commitment

will be adapted to the life circumstances of the members, especially in the case of the lay people."

Br Chris clarified that Lay and Brother Marists will be encouraged to live in the international communities for a renewable terms, according to their life situation.

The Formation Team

The former provincial of Australia is among many candidates who have already put their names forward to live in an international community.

"What does a former Provincial do next?" Brother Jeff Crowe told the general house press office on Oct. 20. "Deep down, I want to be part of the future of Marists and I see that future as increasingly global."

"In my own case, this is not so surprising since I have lived outside Australia for many years in a variety of contexts," he stated.

Br Jeff volunteered himself after the Superior General asked him to be part of the team to form the candidates for two months before they move to one of the international communities.

Br Ángel has been the leader of the formation community for Brothers in El Escorial, Spain, for the past six years.

"The meeting was a confluence of dreams, hopes and challenges, with those who have been entrusted with the mission to animate this experience and those who have offered their lives and themselves to make it happen," said Br Ángel.

"This project is important because the new beginning needs concrete expressions of life and commitment by the entire Institute and by dedicated Marist people, brothers and laity," he added.



Martyrs of Bugobe - 31 October

We remember Brothers Fernando de la Fuente de la Fuente, Julio Rodríguez Jorge, Miguel Angel Isla Lucio and Servando Mayor García, who were martyred on Oct. 31, 1996, in Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

They lived in Bugobe and were killed in 1996 when tensions from the neighbouring Rwandan Civil War and genocide spilled over.

You can read more in our site, in <http://www.champagnat.org/530.php?p=185&b=Bugobe>



FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE MARIST LIFE AND MISSION

"Arco Norte" region

Forty-one participants attended the first Assembly of the Marist Life and Mission of the Arco Norte region in Guatemala City from Oct. 19 – 23.

"I believe that this meeting is a very important moment for our region, since the Institute has promoted the project of new models of animation, government and management, which aims at giving strength to the development of Marist life and mission through regions," said Brother César Augusto Rojas Carvajal, provincial of Norandina and one of the participants.

"It is a privileged moment to continue to deepen this future challenge, to envision together – brothers and laity – paths of communion (...) and take concrete steps in consolidating structures that allow us subsidiarity, networking and a vision of globalization from our local realities," he told the general house press office on Oct. 22.

The aim of the encounter, he continued, was to give continuity to the II International Marist Mission Assembly, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, last year.

"A group of brothers and lay people, who attended the Assembly, organized this event in order to realise the proposals from the International Assembly and to help make them become a reality in our region," he affirmed.

Br César underscored that aside from the Brothers provincial, a Marist sister, laity and other Brothers, there were seven youths "who remind us who the Marist mission is aimed at."



"Their presence was a breath of renewing and fresh air," stated the Colombian.

He stressed the goals for this encounter included "growing in hope and knowledge of our region, strengthening the personal commitment to the Marist mission, and proposing one or two goals (or projects) as Arco Norte.

Other goals were also to "embody the calls of the AIMM in our Arco Norte reality, to live as an international Marist community and to generate significant meeting spaces, discernment, prayer and reflection."

The Arco Norte region is formed by 6 Provinces: Norandina, América Central, México Central, México Occidental, United States of America and Canada.

Claudia Rojas, Alfonso Luis de Chavez Estrada and Brothers Daniel Martín, Agustín Acevedo, Steve Milan and Real Sauvageau organised the event.



New Models of Animation, Government and Management project

The organisers of the New Models of Animation, Government and Management, a project aimed at designing the Institute's future operating model, met at the general house in Rome from Oct. 19 – 21 to continue

implementing its roadmap and review the progress made so far within the Institute's regions.

"The aim of our meeting is to finalise our operational work plan for the in-

coming future, until the Chapter, and to structure a co-design of new structures and processes together with each region," said Brother João Carlos do Prado Director of the Institute's Mission Secretariat, who is heading the project

alongside Brother Miguel Angel Espinosa Barrera.

"The key purposes of the project is to help the Institute work as a global body and to strengthen the vitality of the Marist mission," he told the general house press office on Oct. 20.

"The idea is to help all of us realise that we (Marists) form part of a wider body and that where and when needed, we can support one another," said Luca Olivari, who was appointed as advisor to the Institute's general government in July.

The New Models project team analysed the progress each region, who have benefited of both remote and local support of project team member, has made until now. The Institute's regions are Asia, Oceania, Africa, Europa, Arco Norte and Brasil-Cono Sur.

Early results of this project include a greater coordination within the different bodies of the general government, the joining of the regions of Brasil and Cono Sur, the strengthening of Africa's



regional structures and the creation of a network of Marist schools in both Europe and in Oceania.

The team is hoping for Asia's contribution when the region holds its Mission

Assembly in Sri Lanka this December.

"In general, we are already experiencing a change in moving towards a global mind-set, increasing interculturality and further involving the laity at all levels," affirmed Luca.

The project's last major encounter was from July 10 – 15 in the general house in Rome, with 85 participants including the general council, provincials, district superiors, laity and other Marist representatives from around the world.

In his opening speech, Superior General Brother Emili Turú appealed to them for a "change of heart and mentality."

He echoed the words of Pope Francis noting that "things cannot continue as they are" and that the Church needs "a pastoral and missionary conversion."



Greece
European Marist Conference



Brothers and Marist Sisters
in Ambositra, Madagascar



Year Fourvière in São Paulo



Seoul
South Korea



Meeting of the Co-directors of the
Secretariat of Laity – Solomon Islands



Meeting of the Control Committee of the
Bedford Fund – South Africa

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF MARIST PRESENCE IN CAMEROON

Eucharistic celebration included six perpetual professions

Around 2,000 people attended a Mass at a boarding school in Bafut to celebrate 50 years since the first brothers arrived to Cameroon.

The over five-hour long Eucharistic celebration took place at the Marist boarding school Saint Albert's Comprehensive College on Oct. 17.

"I believe that by joining the celebration of 50 years and the perpetual professions of the six brothers, the Marist vocation was made visible to many young people, so it was a moment of vocational attraction," said Superior General Brother Emili Turú, present in the celebration.

The newly professed Brothers are Blaise Lawir, Cho Nchang, Elvis Tomla, Emmanuel Bongben, Therence Wiykiynyuy and Valentine Meyanui.

"The celebration was done in a very African style, very long but very festive and cheerful with lots of music, dance and lots of involvement with the students who danced," Superior General told the general house press office on Oct. 22.

Br Emili told how the first Brothers who arrived to Cameroon were from Canada and Great Britain. The Brothers were living in Congo and Nigeria, but were forced to flee to Cameroon in 1965 when violence broke out.

He underscored that now "there are many vocations under way and that it is a nice moment in the history of that country."

"The 50 years of Marist presence shows a time of maturity, a lot of hope and life," he added. "My presence was to express communion with the Institute and thank them for their unique contribution to the life of the Marists."

Saint Albert's is the biggest of the four schools with Marist



teachers in Cameroon and home to 1,020 boys and girls in secondary school, of which all took part in the event. Two other schools are in Mbengwi, with 600 students, and in Tatum with 300 students and a postulancy, which includes youth from the district of West Africa.

The fourth is the bilingual diocesan boarding school College Notre Dame des Nations in Douala. The Brothers that teach there live in the community of Yassa-Douala, which was created on Sept. 15 this year.

Cameroon is one of the six countries of the district of West Africa – alongside Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia – and home to the district superior, Brother Francis Lukong, who now lives in Accra, Ghana.

There are 33 Brothers within the District, who were born in the English speaking part of Cameroon, and 17 of them currently live in the country.

The others are either living in other countries of the district or are receiving formation in the Marist International Center in Nairobi, Kenya.

