



MARIST NEWS

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

PREPARATIONS FOR 2017 UNDERWAY

PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER MEETS FOR THE FIRST TIME



The Commission preparing the next General Chapter in 2017 held its first encounter at the general house in Rome on Nov. 22. The 11 brothers are gathering until Nov. 27 to prepare

for the twenty-second chapter, which will be celebrated in Rionegro (Colombia), approximately 40 km from Medellín.

In a message dated May 24, superior general brother Emili Turú said that the preparatory commission "will animate the path of the Institute towards this important Marist event."

The Commission members are Brothers Josep McKee (coordinator); Eugène Kabanguka (General Council); Carlos Huidobro (General secretary); Pau Fornells (Superior General's secretary, Commission's secretary); João Gutemberg (Amazonia); Álvaro Sepúlveda (Sta. María de los Andes); Ben Consigli (USA); Juan Carlos Fuertes (Mediterránea); Vincent de Paul Kouassi (West Africa); Darren Burge (Australia); Rajakumar Susai Manickam (South Asia).

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From 25 to 27 November, Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, participates in Rome in the Assembly of the Union of the Superiors General.

From 23 to 25 this month Br. Ernesto Sánchez, General Councilor, attended the Assembly of the Representatives of the Spanish Marist Conference, in Madrid, Spain.

The directors of the Secretariat of Mission, brothers Miguel Angel Espinosa and João Carlos do Prado, took part in the meeting of training team of African directors, held in South Africa. From today till 30 November, they will attend the meeting of the African Mission Commission.

It is gathered at the General House the team responsible for the formation of candidates to join the international communities for a new beginning. They are brothers Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina.



"RELIGIOUS SHOULD AWAKEN THE WORLD"

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF MÉXICO CENTRAL

During the provincial chapter of México Central, its new head said that religious should help people 'wake up.'



“Religious men and women should be able to awaken the world,” said the new provincial of México Central, Brother José Sánchez.

His comments came during the provincial chapter of México Central, which took place in the provincial house of Quinta Soledad in Mexico City from Nov. 13 – 16.

Br José also asked the chapter participants to work on a “promotion of vocation and support of brothers and laity, the promotion of government structures and the acceptance of an increasingly intense dialogue with the Institute and the Arco Norte (region).”

He also requested the new provincial council to be “brothers who are willing to use their life for the poorest and to form and give formation through updated processes of transformation of our structures.”

Participants included brothers and laity as well as guests that included brothers from the México Occidental province, Brother Albert Rivera of the United States province, Marist Sister Mari Aranda and Marist Fathers Jean Vienne, Pedro Alarcón and Jesús Daniel Rojo.

The superior general, Brother Emili Turú, was the first to address the participants and asked them to “leave their role, personal interest or their representativeness to work as one body and work in giving the province a government made up of the best possible team so that Br José can do his work.”

He asked them to “be open to the Spirit’s presence, leaving aside personal interests and representations of groups, changing the way of thinking in search for a new beginning in this province.”

The superior general stressed the importance of knowing how to “work as a global institute, living a solidarity globalization.”

Br Emili reflected on the importance of the laity as sharing responsibility with the brothers in the mission, not just as mere collaborators, and he thanked Brother Ricardo Reynoso, former provincial, for his “merciful service.”

The new provincial council members are Brothers Juan Carlos Robles Gil, Javier Salcedo, Justino Gómez, Daniel Herrera, Luis Felipe González and Rodrigo Espinoza.



Be open to the Spirit’s presence, leaving aside personal interests and representations of groups, changing the way of thinking in search for a new beginning in this province.

Br Emili Turú, Superior General



THIRD TERM FOR WEST CENTRAL EUROPE PROVINCIAL

The superior general announced that Brother Brendan Geary will renew his term as provincial of West Central Europe for a third time in a letter dated Nov. 10.

“The General Council has decided to appoint Br. Brendan Geary as Provincial, since we believe that he is the person who can best accompany the reality the Province is living at this time, giving continuity to all that has already been achieved in the last six years,” said Brother Emili Turú in a letter addressed to the brothers of the province.

Br Brendan began his first three-year term as provincial in Feb. 2010 and his second term in April 2013.

He will officially take up office for a third term during the provincial chapter, which will be held near Munich,



The picture above was taken in May, 2014, during Br Brendan’s visit to a kindergarten supported by Brother Hans Seubert on MFangano Island in Kenya’s Lake Victoria.

Germany, at the formation centre in Freising from March 28 – April 1.

The superior general, general councillor Brother Ernesto Sánchez, 15 Brothers as well as 16 lay people, who

NEWS IN BRIEF

COMBATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Marist Solidarity Network of the Province Brasil Centro-Sul has launched the tenth video campaign, "Defend yourself." The videos promote policies that address sexual violence against children and adolescents, especially in the field of prevention against sexual abuse and exploitation. The videos show everyday situations where the child can defend himself. All videos, in Portuguese, are available: <http://goo.gl/IPL6mY>.

AFRICAN COMMISSION OF MISSION

The Commission is in Johannesburg to review the training plan for Marist schools directors and to organise the second phase of implementation at the local level. It will then make a new development plan for the next five years.

POPE IN AFRICA

The attack in Paris on Nov. 13 shook the life of the international community. The monster of terror knocked at the door of the people of Europe. Precisely in this context, the Pope is in Africa from Nov. 25 – 30 and will taste the reality of Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic. Marists give witness to the charisma of Marcelin in these lands. The Central African Republic is in the East Central Africa Province. Also Kenya, whose capital is home to the Marist International Centre (MIC), which is attended by the Brothers of the entire African continent, to complete initial formation.

BULLETINS ON LINE

- Review n. 6 - Council of Oceania
- Toques de Tambor Amazônico - District of Amazônia, Brazil
- Nouvelles en Bref - Province of Canada
- Vida en Compostela, Spain
- Província Informa - Brasil Centro-Norte

<http://goo.gl/037o67>

have been invited, will participate.

"We need to continue to manage the diminishment in the Province, regarding the number of communities, care of the brothers, and careful use of financial and other resources," said Br Brendan.

"It is important to respond sensitively to the needs of the Brothers, while assuring that there is viable leadership and management in local communities," he told the general house press office Nov. 13.

He underscored that "this will increasingly involve the support and participation of lay people."

"We need to continue to develop our work with lay people in the Province, and to find ways to sustain the mission that we are currently involved in," Br Brendan remarked.

"Also, we need to find appropriate structures, possibly at European level, to ensure management and animation in the years ahead," he added.

The West Central Europe province was founded in the year 2000 and the provincial house is in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

'NEW MODELS' PROJECT SEEKS TO REFORM THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



From left to right: Luca Olivari and the Brothers João Carlos do Prado, Miguel Ángel Espinosa Barrera, Chris Wills and Villa-Real Tapias.

Leaders of New Models of Animation, Government and Management have created a new team with four more members to implement their project in the general administration.

The organisers – Brothers Miguel Angel Espinosa Barrera and João do Prado of the Institute's Mission Secretariat and Luca Olivari, advisor to the Institute's general government – met with the new project team from Nov. 11 – 12 at the general house in

Rome.

"We have to see how we can be more organic, more harmonized and work more together for the mission," said Br Miguel Angel.

"We are seeing the first brush stroke of the manual functions of the general administration's structure," he told the general house press office Nov.12.

The New Models project, aimed at

MARIST WORLD



Mexico
Instituto Franco Mexicano



Assembly of representatives of the Spanish Marist Conference



Final Profession of Brothers Junior, Paulo Soares and José Rogério, Brasil Centro-Norte



El Salvador
National Fraternities meeting



General House
Birthday of Br. Joe McKee, Vicar General



Australia: Student Leaders from 17 Marist Schools at the Hermitage, Mittagong

designing the Institute's future operating model, previously met at the general house in Rome from Oct. 19 – 21 to review the progress made so far within the Institute's regions.

It held a major encounter from July 10 – 15 at the general house with 85 participants including the general council, provincials, district superiors, laity and other Marist representatives from around the world.

Aside from the organisers, the new team includes Brother Gabriel Villa-Real Tapias, the coordinator of the European Mission Team of L'Hermitage province, director of FMSI's Rome bureau Brother Mario Meuti, economo general Brother Libardo Garzón and Brother Chris Wills, the director of 'Collaboration for Mission, International.'

They will meet again in February at the general house to present their work to the general council.

THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACE PEOPLE IN EUROPE

DECLARATION OF THE MARIST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE



We make public our commitment to welcome these people into our European Marist Provinces, into our communities, into the educational and social projects.

The leadership of the Marist European Conference which met in Athens (Greece) from 26th - 28th October decided to issue this communication in the form of a public declaration which expresses the concern, solidarity and commitment of all European Marists, Brothers and Laity, to the problem of displaced persons and refugees in Europe.

We show this firstly in our strong condemnation of the causes of this displacement, in particular war and the other forms of discrimination and injustice which force people, very often complete families, to leave their homeland in search of a safer place to live.

And, at the same time, we make public our commitment to welcome

these people into our European Marist Provinces, into our communities, into the educational and social projects which make up the Marist presence in almost 20 European countries.

In this way we respond to the call of Pope Francis and his invitation to religious congregations and communities to be the first to welcome them, and at the same time we support the call of our Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, that all European Marists show solidarity and generosity as they welcome and support these refugees.

The Marists of Europe, spread over 5 Provinces – Compostela, West-Central Europe, Ibérica, L’Hermitage and Mediterránea, participate not on our own, but jointly with the institutions of the Catholic Church, state and local charities, and other support organisations who have expertise in this field.

Among these initiatives, we draw particular attention to two of them:

- We offer our full support to the Marist Community of Aleppo (Syria) where a group of Brothers and Lay Marists (the “Blue Marists”) courageously remain in a situation of great risk, involving themselves in humanitarian, educational and aid activities, particularly with young children.
- Equally, we applaud and support the recently created “Fratelli Project” with Marist and De La Salle Brothers opening a Community of Brothers and Lay People who work in Lebanon with children and young people.

Each of the five Provinces is also developing concrete actions of help and support in the face of such a serious humanitarian problem. Among these we emphasise:

1. Province of Compostela

Our Province has responded to

the calls for care of refugees, with measures such as:

- Incorporate the idea in all our Community Projects. Eight communities are already taking steps to welcome displaced people or refugees families, working closely with Church organisations.
- Other forms of financial and joint support which have been put forward by the Communities and the Province themselves.
- Offers of refuge by some schools, and also schooling for displaced children in all our establishments.
- Put at the disposal of “Caritas of Santiago de Compostela” our Meeting House in Roxos, for possible use as a reception centre for refugee families.

2. Province of West-Central Europe

- The Marist Community of Recklinghausen in Germany welcomed two Syrian women and their children in December 2014, and have been supporting these families since then in every way.
- The town of Furth in Germany recently bought a Marist property in the town. They are using what used to be the old noviciate to house 18 young Afghans who attend the Marist School.
- Brother Pol Grégoire in Malmedy, Belgium, has worked for many years with immigrants and refugees and continues to offer them support. He is looking to find future lodgings for some refugees.
- In Habay-la-Vieille, Belgium, Brother Robert Thunus has contacted various civil and religious agencies, and has offered the house of the former chaplain, based in our property, for the use of a refugee family.

3. Province of Ibérica

The Province has taken the following actions, among others, to show its concern for refugees and immigrants.

- At the start of the 2015 session,

LATEST DECEASED BROTHERS

- 25/11/2015:** Edmund Louis Nwankwo - Nigeria, Enugu
- 22/11/2015:** Denis Richmond Prov. Australia Ashgrove
- 15/11/2015:** Pierre Bosco Wei Siao Shan. Prov. East Asia - Hong Kong
- 10/11/2015:** Victoriano Álvarez González. Prov. Mediterránea - Spain, Benalmádena
- 09/11/2015:** Joaquim de Castro. Prov. Compostela - Portugal, Lisboa
- 06/11/2015:** Jean-Yves Savard. Prov. Canada, Château-Richer
- 04/11/2015:** Emiliano Alastuey Sánchez. Prov. Mediterránea - Liban, Dik El Mehdi
- 01/11/2015:** Jesús Andrés Calle. Prov. Cruz del Sur - Argentina, Buenos Aires
- 31/10/2015:** Claudius Pettit. Dist. Pacific - New Zealand, Upper Hutt
- 27/10/2015:** Joaquín Flores Segura. Prov. México Central, San Luis Potosí
- 26/10/2015:** Osiel Gómez López. Prov. México Occidental, Aguascalientes
- 23/10/2015:** Restituto Blanco Ordóñez. Prov. Compostela - Spain, León
- 21/10/2015:** José Manuel Gómez Ramírez. Prov. Norandina - Colombia, Ibagué
- 19/10/2015:** Jean Loïsele. Prov. Canada, Château-Richer
- 17/10/2015:** Raymond Barbe. Prov. Brasil Centro-Norte
- 12/10/2015:** Antonino Fernández Díez. Prov. L’Hermitage - Spain, Les Avellanes
- 10/10/2015:** Tomás Sawayenga. Prov. África Austral - Angola
- 10/10/2015:** Belmiro Schmidt. Prov. Rio Grande do Sul - Angola, Kuito-Bié
- 10/10/2015:** Tomás Eulogio Dan-court Chueca. Prov. Sta. María de los Andes - Peru, Lima
- 09/10/2015:** Urbain Beauvais. Prov. Canada, Château-Richer
- 08/10/2015:** Emiliano García Llama. Provincia Norandina - Ecuador, Loja
- 07/10/2015:** Egidio Picoli. Provincia Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, Porto Alegre



raising awareness of the problem with the Superiors, relying on the support of the Sisters of the Adoration and their experience in dealing with immigrant prostitutes.

- Encourage all communities, so that they include in all their projects concrete proposals to involve the Brothers in voluntary work with immigrants.
- Offer the hostel at the residence in Lardero to the Department of Social Services of Logroño for use as a reception centre for immigrants

4. Province of L'Hermitage

Following the call from Pope Francis and Brother Emili in favour of Syrian refugees, the Province has:

- Sent a letter to all communities giving the criteria for receiving immigrants into the communities of the Province.
- We have recommended that they contact the diocesan services dealing with this problem. All decisions in this area must be communicated to Brother Provincial.
- The Province of L'Hermitage will

give financial help to organisations involved with Syrian refugees. This help will come from the Solidarity Fund of the Province.

- In Greece, our property in Syri will be at the disposal of the Minister for Refugees. Contact has already been made with the Minister's secretary and steps are being taken to receive refugees.

5. Province of Mediterránea

Once the Provincial Pastoral Commission had proposed to the Provincial Council that we become involved in the situation regarding the immigrants and refugees in Europe, we have undertaken several actions:

- We help the Blue Marists in Aleppo, maintaining and supporting the community and its mission.
- In the school at Champville, in Lebanon, there are Syrian refugees. In Faraya and Jbail, also in Lebanon, they have welcomed the relatives of the Brothers, and Syrian refugees recommended by the Blue Marists.
- In Spain, we have put our empty apartments at the disposal of Car-

tas. Caritas will begin making use of our house in Huelva.

- The criterion for the Province and the Brothers is to collaborate with Church initiatives (Caritas, Confer,...).

At the conclusion of this message, on behalf of the Marist Lay People and Brothers in Europe, we wish to state explicitly our desire to continue planting seeds of life for the future, and to do it specially, following our charism, through the education and evangelization of children and young people and other services in communion with the Church.

We want to be the face of tenderness and compassion for children and young people, particularly with so many refugees and displaced people, just as our Founder Saint Marcellin Champagnat would have wished, and as proposed by Pope Francis for the upcoming Year of Mercy.

And we will carry on working, on the eve of our Bicentenary as a congregation, to build a Marian Church and a more just society, hand in hand always with our Good Mother: she will teach us to live in family, fraternity and love, always open to the Risen Christ.

United in his Spirit and dreaming of a new beginning full of life,
On behalf of,

Brothers Provincial_ Brendan Geary, Antonio Giménez de Bagüés, Ambrosio Alonso, Maurice Berquet and Óscar Martín, with all members of the Marist European Conference, and all European Marists.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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