



## REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS COMMUNICATION FROM THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

After two weeks of works, from 2 to 14 November 2015, the Marist International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions send to all Brothers of the Institute this communication that we copy here down.

Friday, 13th November 2015

To Brothers Provincial, District Superiors and all Brothers of the Institute, from Members of the Marist International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions

Dear Brothers,

The Marist International Commission for the Revision of

the Constitutions has just finished its first meeting at the General House in Rome. The purpose of this letter is to say a word of thanks, to report on the work of our first meeting and to give some indications of how we see the process for the review of the Constitutions proceeding from now until the General Chapter in 2017.

### A word of thanks:

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge and thank the previous Commission for the excellent work they did in preparing the process for the first Consultation on the Constitutions entitled, 'Stories of the Journey, Told Around The Fire'. Judging from anecdotal reports, and the feedback we received, it appears the process whereby Brothers shared their personal stories of how they are living aspects associated with the five main themes presented in the initial consultation was well received and generated good reflection and rich dialogue. We would also like want to thank all the many Administrative Units, communities, groups or individual Brothers who sent back their feedback on the five themes. We received approximately 700 reports!

### The work of the first meeting:

A good part of our first meeting was spent reading, reflecting, synthesizing and analysing all the feedback so as to get a clear picture of what the Brothers are saying about the present version of the Constitutions. Following on from this, we also sought to identify through the feedback what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

What surprised and encouraged us from this exercise was the strong consensus that emerged from across the whole Institute about what elements from the Constitutions need be retained, which need to be reviewed or changed, and what new calls or pointers to the future need to be included. All these contributions helped to build up for us a very clear picture of what you want to see in the revised version of the Constitutions.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2: the second meeting of the planning and development commission of international communities for a New Beginning (Lavalla200>) was held at the general house. Brothers Joe McKee, Chris Wills, Libardo Garzón, Tony Leon, Jeff Crowe and Ángel Medina participated.

Dec. 1: Superior General Br Emili Turú accompanied the Advent Retreat of the Vatican's Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

General Councillor Br Michael De Waas is in Sri Lanka, following a program of "New Era" aimed at animators of the Pacific District Pacific.

Dec 4 - 10: the Chapter and the Provincial Assembly of the Province of Brasil Centro-Norte are taking place. General councillor Br Josep Maria Soterias will attend.

Dec. 5 - 8: several brothers of the general administration will participate in the Assembly of the Mediterránea Province, in Guardamar: Ernesto Sanchez, Javier Espinosa, João Carlos do Prado, Mario Meuti and Pietro Bettin.



In addition to processing the feedback from the Brothers, our meeting agenda also included:

- Learning about the revisions done by other Religious Congregations of Brothers;
- Consulting some Brothers on the history and development of the Marist Rule of Life and Constitutions since the beginnings of the Institute;
- Consulting a representative from the Dicastery of the Vatican Congregation for Consecrated Life on the Canonical requirements associated with an Institute such as ours;
- Deciding on a structure for the revised Constitutions; how writing tasks are to be allocated, the revision process, establishing a timeline and so on.

#### Some early indications:

At this early stage, we would like to share with you some observations about the directions the revision appears to be pointing:

- While many asked for the core Marist principles and values need to be retained, there needs to be a thorough revision of the whole text.
- The 'inspirational' and 'normative' elements of the text need to distinguish between those articles that describe the essence of our life as Brothers and those articles and

statutes that are required of us by Canon Law.

- The expression and general structure needs to be simplified. The language must be inspirational, clear, consistent, and draw inspiration from more recent Church and Marist documents.
- Our Constitutions must also recognise new developments, such as recent insights gained into our Marist origins, the relationship we now have with lay people who share our charism, spirituality and commitment to our mission, and new models of Government and animation.

These days of meeting and working together have been for all of us a great privilege and a graced experience. We are conscious of the great trust that has been placed in us by Brother Emili and the General Council to facilitate and complete this important work for the Institute.

With openness and generosity, and sustained by our meditative prayer and Eucharist in common, we managed to quickly establish a climate of warm, fraternal dialogue and ease in working together.

We are most grateful for the hospitality offered to us by the General House Community and the Brothers who have assisted us.

#### Looking ahead – the review process:

Looking forward, the general process we propose for the revision of the Constitutions between now and 2017 is as follows:

#### November 2015 to February 2016:

Members of the Commission will prepare a 1st draft for general consultation;

**April 2016:** The 1st draft will be forwarded to Provincials and District Superiors;

**April to September 2016:** Administrative Units and/or Regions will follow a process that enables Brothers to give feedback on the 1st draft;

**By the 30th September 2016:** Administrative units forward to Rome their synthesis

**October 2016:** All the feedback is processed for review;

#### November 2016 to February 2017:

Members of the Commission meet to reflect on and discuss the feedback and prepare a 2nd draft.

**April 2017:** The 2nd draft is presented to the Preparatory Commission for the XXII General Chapter to determine how they will process the draft with Chapter delegates.

#### In need of your prayer:

The Commission humbly asks Brothers and Communities to continue to pray for the important work of revising our Constitutions. Please pray that this work may truly be a work of the Holy Spirit, honouring our traditions, acknowledging our present realities, inspiring all of us as we journey on with confidence to joyfully live the gift of our Marist Brotherhood in the Church, in the world and among those brothers and sisters we are called to serve.

Faternally,

Members of the Marist International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions

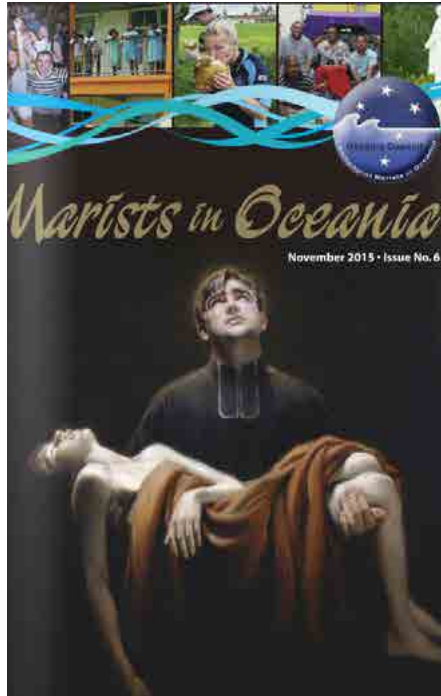
## OCEANIA COUNCIL MEETING IN BRISBANE:

### A COMMON VISION FOR MARIST LIFE AND MISSION ACROSS OCEANIA

The Oceania Council met in Brisbane, Australia on Nov 9 and 10.

The Oceania Council brings together Leaders and representatives of the Province of Australia and the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific. While each of these administrative units has projects and interests relating to their local needs and issues the major focus of the Council in current discussions has been on areas and projects that can be shared and networked across the Region.

"The Oceania Council is responsible to establish and maintain a common vision for Marist life and mission across the Region in accordance with the documents of the Church and the General Chapters. The Oceania Council provides opportunities to deepen their sense of Marist Identity and belonging in order to nurture the Marist way of living the Gospel across the



Region." The Council continues to explore ways to provide effective communication across the Region and enhance opportunities to network among Champagnat Marists.

Many of these projects and activities are detailed in the November 2015 issue of the publication – Marists in Oceania.

The next meeting of the Oceania Council will be held in Sydney, 20-22 March 2016.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Course for leaders

Eight young brothers of the Pacific district are participating in the "New Era Leadership" course directed by General Councillor Br Michael De Waas, along with sister Piluca and District Superior Br David McDonald. This stage of the course is taking place in Sri Lanka.

### Peru Sector

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 5, 16 brothers and 4 laity of Peru are gathering for the annual retreat of the Province of Santa María de los Andes. The theme is the Fourvière Year and participants are being guided by the Provincial Brother Saturnino Alonso.

### ADVENT RETREAT

As usual, the pastoral team of young adults in the United States is making the Advent retreat available on youtube again this year. The video of the first week is available at: <https://youtu.be/FthzaBad3Us>.

### THEATRE SHOW

A team of the Rio Grande do Sul Province (Brasil Sul-Amazônia) organized - through an extension course in theater production - a show on the Bicentennial of the Institute, with the participation of 30 actors and 20 drummers. Next year, this show will be shown in schools in the province.

## ONLINE NEWS

Sri Lanka - News and Announcements - South Asia Province

Belgium - Frères et Laïcs en communion - Province Europe Centre-Ouest / West Central Europe

Spain - Hoja Informativa - Prov. Mediterránea

Spain - Mediterránea Province

Marist Brothers - Irmãos Maristas | Southern Africa - África Austral Province

Philippines - Kuya center - reuniting street children with their families - East Asia Province

<http://goo.gl/047o67>



## MARIST WORLD



El Salvador: Vocation ministry meeting



Philippines: CMMF Philippines Sector Core Group Meeting, Cotabato



Lebanon: brothers of the Fratelli Project in a refugee shelter in Sidon



Australia: People's Climate March, Marist Youth Ministry, Brisbane



Central African Republic: Primary School in Berberati



Italy: San Leone Magno Institute, in Roma

## ITALY: GENERAL HOUSE BIDS FAREWELL TO BROTHER PIETRO BETTIN



The Institute's general house in Rome offered Brother Pietro Bettin a farewell ceremony on Dec. 2, before his departure to Genoa, where he will serve as superior.

Brother Antonio Sancamillo, who was superior of the community in Taormina for 11 years, is replacing Brother Pietro as superior of the community of the general house.

The Institute's superior general, Brother Emili Turú, addressed participants during the Eucharistic celebration held at the Champagnat hall at noon.

"I will say three words, all with 's', that we can apply to describe Pietro," he stated. "The first 's' is serenity, have you ever seen Pietro angry?"

"I've seen that in these six years, Pietro has lived with a great serenity and this has clearly helped the community a lot because serenity is contagious," added Br Emili.

He stated that the second word that describes Br Pietro is the word 'service.'

"And the third is 'simplicity,'" the superior general continued. "As Marists, we want to be inspired by Mary, a person who has probably lived very well these three 's' words and she was a very simple person as was probably Marcellin Champagnat."

According to Br Emili, being simple helps a community with an international environment have peace and serenity. After the Mass, Br Pietro offered a rose as a symbol of gratitude for his time as the superior of the gen-

eral house community. "The first word that comes to my mind is 'thank you' – above all, thank you, Lord.

"And thank you, my superiors, who have given me the possibility to undertake this experience and thank you, Emili, for the things you have said," he remarked.

"Collaboration has helped me a lot and I've never lacked it," he added.

"I asked myself this morning how many brothers have passed by the general house in these six years – not in the general house because that would be hundreds but in the community.

I counted 65 Brothers of which 39 have returned to their provinces and two are in paradise."

Br Pietro went on to thank the lay staff, who were also present, stressing that there is a "good spirit among them" and asked for everyone's prayers.

## NEW MÉXICO CENTRAL PROVINCIAL: 'RELIGIOUS SHOULD AWAKEN THE WORLD' SUPERIOR GENERAL ASKS PROVINCIAL CHAPTER PARTICIPANTS TO WORK AS A GLOBAL INSTITUTE



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.



**Leave your role, personal interest or your 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.**

-Superior General, Brother Emili Turú





He 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 also 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.

## 1,000 MARIST YOUTH MEET FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

### YOUTH MEET UNDER THE THEME 'LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS'



... they sang, danced and showed all their joy for participating in PJM.

-Rio Grande do Sul Province



Over 1,000 youth of the Marist Youth Ministry (PJM) gathered for the Encounter of Marist Youth (EJM) in Novo Hamburgo on Nov. 14 for their yearly meeting. The PJM members from the Province of Rio Grande do Sul met at the Pius XII Marist College under the theme 'Love that Transforms.' According to an article published on the Province's website, "this theme was chosen because it reinforces the principle Civilization of Love,

adopted by PJM, where the transforming power of the protagonist of adolescents and young people, as well as the community and collaboration, are ways for transformation."

"A memorable moment was when the participants of the meeting in a colorful walk, went toward the cathedral São Luiz Gonzaga in a colourful walk," the article continued. "Encouraged by an electric

trio, they sang, danced and showed all their joy for participating in PJM." In the cathedral, they prayed giving thanks for all the people and moments that have contributed to the history of PJM. In the afternoon, the youth took part in workshops in dancing, drawing, photography, music and meditation. The next Encounter of Marist Youth will take place on Sept. 24 next year at the Saint Angelo Marist College.

#### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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Our site: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/champagnatorg>

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