



FOUNDATION OF THE PROVINCE SOUTH BRAZIL-AMAZONIA

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT OF THE INSTITUTE



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Dec. 7 – 11: the first chapter of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia province, founded on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, took place with the participation of superior general Brother Emili Turú and general councillor Brother Víctor Preciado.

Dec. 8 – 10: the chapter of the Brasil Centro-Norte province was held with the participation of vicar general Brother Joe McKee and general councillor Brother Josep María Soteras.

Dec. 12: The permanent formation course at the general house for third age English speaking brothers, which began in September, will end.

Dec. 12 – 16: Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Chris Wills will participate in Asia's mission assembly in Negombo, Sri Lanka.

On Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the province South Brazil-Amazonia was created, the result of the union of the province of Rio Grande do Sul with the district of Amazonia.

Brother Inacio Etges, who up to that moment was provincial of Rio Grande do Sul, became the first provincial.

The new administrative union is present in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in the federal district and in the region of Amazonia.

The Eucharistic celebration which marked the foundation, underlined the union of these three Brazilian regions, symbolized each one of them by a typical element: wild pumpkin of Rio Grande do Sul, the 'candangos' from Brasilia - those born in Brasilia - and the canoe from Amazonia.

The celebration was in Veranópolis and the Mass was presided over by the Archbishop Dom Roque Paloschi, named bishop of Porto Velho.

Brother Emili Turú, the Institute's superior general, presided over the act of creation of the new province and the tasking office of the provincial. General councillor Brother Víctor Preciado also participated.

In the reading of the letter that Br Emili sent to the Brothers during the consultation for the unification, it was decreed: "from this moment, the Marist province of Rio Grande do Sul and the Marist district of Amazonia no longer exist. We welcome the Marist province of South Brazil-Amazonia".

To mark this moment, he gave two icons to Br. Inacio. The first one, an icon of the Ascension of the Lord, was hand painted in Rumania and symbolises the challenge of placing very different realities in communion with one another.

He also gave him the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a replica of the one that the first Brothers took to southern

Brazil when they arrived there.

Br Inacio affirmed that "the time has come to end frontiers and geographic barriers, to now look at the broader and more extensive horizon and admire the rising of the new dawn."

With our feet firmly on the present, I invite all to contemplate the past and to look toward the future with hope. This is a future that requires courage, availability, openness, listening and an attentive look. "It is the time of fidelity to God and to the dream of Champagnat", he stated.

The first provincial chapter began on that same day and ends on Dec. 11.

CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND PRIMATE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREECE



The Alumni Association organised – in collaboration with the two Léonins institutes of Greece (Néa Smyrni y Patissia) – the appointment ceremony of His Beatitude the Archbishop of Athens and Primate of the Orthodox Church of Greece Ieronymos II, literature professor at the Lycée Léonin de Néa Smyrni from 1965 to 1968, and his Golden Cross delivery for his virtues and goodness.

The ceremony included the Nuncio of the Holy See, Monsignor Edward Adams, catholic Archbishop of Athens, Reverend Sevastianos Rossolatos and his predecessor Nikolaos.

Other participants were six orthodox bishops, the community of the Marist Brothers of Greece, ministers and alumni Mr Kammenos (of national defence) and Mr Tsironis (environment), the representative of the Ministry of Education, many members of the Greek Parliament and the European Parliament, university professors, diplomats, artists, businessmen and many teachers and parents of students.

In his speech, the president of the Marist Mission Council of Greece, Brother Matthieu Levantinos, praised Monsignor Ieronymos and stressed the Marist values that he had promoted as a professor (faith, the presence, regular attendance at work, family spirit, social solidarity...). Br Matthieu also underscored his commitment in continuing the pedagogical vision

of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, like so many other Marists, brothers and laity, in today's world.

Brother François Kritikos, who was his partner in the LLNS (the Léonins institutes) at the time, spoke of the relationship of Archbishop Ieronymos with his students, stating "it is still as friendly and as close as ever."

The institution's director, Catherine Mouzaki, and the president of the Alumni Association, Mr. Mamalis, expressed the same feelings of respect and gratitude.

After receiving the medal, Archbishop Ieronymos thanked the ceremony's organisers and expressed nostalgia for the years he spent in the Lycée Léonin of Néa Smyrni.

He further noted the importance of the teaching profession and the responsibility that teachers undertake at all levels with young people and, especially, with the poorest.

At the end of his speech, the archbishop spoke of the ecumenical spirit "that always permeates relations between the Orthodox and Catholics" working in the two Marist establishments in Greece and appealed to all Christians to continue to work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and to love each other mutually.



**The ecumenical spirit
always permeates
relations between the
Orthodox and Catholics.**

Archbishop Ieronymos II



NEWS IN BRIEF

ASIA DISCRICT

The Asia Marist District consists of eight countries of south and east Asia. In six of these nations, the Marists promote the rights of children and young people by promoting, in this context, Marist vocations. There is also a lot of vocational work in the other two nations.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Around 80 religious gathered in Hunters Hill in Australia to celebrate the conclusion of the Year of Consecrated Life and the opening of the Jubilee year of mercy.

LAITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA

31 laity from Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua and El Salvador met, from Dec. 3 - 7 to continue the formation process of the "lay Marist vocational accompaniment itinerary that aims to strengthen the Marist vocation of the laity in the América Central province.

FIRST PROFESSIONS

In recent days, several Brothers made their first profession. Among them are 9 novices of the Southern Africa province, who made their vows in Matola; 2 novices of the Brasil Centro-Norte Province, who professed in Florianopolis; and Br Rolando Alonso Vega Rodriguez in Guatemala, América Central province.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING: SHORT LIST OF CANDIDATES IS DECIDED UPON



From left to right, (bottom): Brothers Jeff Crowe, Chris Wills and Libardo Garzón (top): Brothers Tony Leon, Joe McKee and Ángel Medina, at the general house.

LAVALLA200>

The Lavalla200> (International Communities for a New Beginning) Planning Committee and the Formation Team met at the general house in Rome from Nov. 24 – Dec. 2.

In consultation with Brother Emili and the General Councillors, a short list of candidates was decided upon.

The Planning Committee members are Brothers Joe McKee, Chris Wills, Libardo Garzón and Tony Leon. The Formation Team is made up of two Brothers, Ángel Medina and Jeff Crowe.

Invitations to the 2016 Formation Programme in May and June 2016 will be made to the candidates before Christmas.

Other candidates will be invited to the 2017 Formation Program. The number of candidates is limited by three factors: Space at the For-

mation Site; Accompaniment of the Candidates; Numbers needed for the 2016 group of Lavall200> communities.

The first draft of the Formation Program was written.

It includes a mixture of presentations but has an emphasis on an international group living interculturally.

The location of the Formation Programme will be in a hamlet 50 km from Firenze (Florence) where candidates will live in Community Units which mirror the likely experience of the new Lavalla200> communities located 'on the peripheries'.

The formational challenge for the candidates will be to make the shift from 'living internationally' to 'living interculturally'.



MARIST WORLD



Sri Lanka: "New Era" programme for leaders of the Pacific district



Brazil: new provincial council of Brasil Centro-Norte



Brazil: provincial chapter of the new province, Brasil Sul-Amazônia



Spain: assembly of the Mediterránea province, Guardamar



Italy (general house): community of the general administration



Brazil: Provincial Chapter of the new Province Brasil Sul-Amazônia

CELEBRATION OF THE FOURVIÈRE YEAR IN LEON, SPAIN

MARISTS, LAITY, BROTHERS AND FATHERS MEET TO CELEBRATE UNITY

The communities of the Marist Family of Leon met on Nov. 28 in the community of Champagnat to celebrate a Marist day motivated by the current Fourvière year.

There are four Marist communities in Leon: Champagnat, post novitiate, Saint Joseph and Marist Fathers.

At noon, 21 Brothers of Champagnat, five of the post novitiate, 10 of Saint Joseph, one of Ponferrada and five Marist Fathers, initiated the Marist Fourvière day in Leon, presided by the image of the Black Virgin that the Brother Superior General presented to each Marist Province. To further highlight the meeting, some lay people were invited.

There have been video memories of Brother Emili Turú on the Fourvière



year and another video on the vocation of a German Marist Father who chose the Society of Mary whereby the Virgin represents for Marists, for her simplicity and family spirit.

In small groups they discussed what Fourvière means to them and the steps taken in their Marist vocation. In the Eucharist, Father Ismael, superior

of the Marist Fathers of Leon, did a tour of key moments of the promise at Fourvière and what it meant for all signatories and, later, for the future of the four Marist Congregations.

A meal and songs in Galician, Portuguese and Castilian were the culmination of an endearing Marist day where Fourvière was the reason that brought us together and where simplicity and fraternal spirit helped develop everything with joy.

And in everyone's mind was the commitment that this meeting was not an isolated event but the beginning of a series of meetings bringing together the Marist family of Leon. Surely, that Champagnat and Father Colin would have said, "What good is seeing the Marists together!"

ARGENTINA: SHARED COMMUNITY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN JORGE, LUJÁN

A NEW EXPERIENCE. A CHALLENGE. A GIFT OF LIFE.



In 2010 from the Vocation Animation, it was proposed to the Provincial Council of the Province Cruz del Sur the possibility of creating new communities, adding them to some already existing, formed by Brothers and lay persons.

The Provincial Council assumed the accompaniment of the proposal and in 2013, possible ways to make this proposal concrete were begun to be sought in a process of dialogue and discernment carried out with laity and Brothers from works located in the neighboring cities of Tigre, Merlo and Luján.

This way and the reflection led to opt for a community formed by a couple of young lay persons involved in the local and provincial pastoral ministry, a university student who works in local pastoral ministry and in a reference Marist Center for children and adolescents in a situation of social vulnerability in Lujan, and two Brothers who were living inserted in a neighborhood of Merlo and have carried out their mission in different works of the Province.

The option has been to construct a community of Brothers and laity who do

not necessarily live in the same house, under the same roof, but that together they assume a life project and a mission in common.

The experience is centered in the spirituality, the mission and living together:

- The spirituality expressed in the way of looking at the world, at nature, persons, things and God himself and the relationships with all of them and among ourselves, trying to do it according to the look of Jesus of Nazareth.
- The living together expressed in regular encounters to discern the paths to follow and that of the community, to pray, to support one another and mutually accompany one another.
- The mission centered on the tasks and work that each one has in the Province and in the institutions of the zone, the work that each one individually has assumed in life, and a common mission in the neighborhood, animated by all the members. The personal tasks are accompanied by the community in the measure in which they are known, accepted and encouraged by the other members.

NORANDINA



Colombia: Perpetual Profession

Br Hugo Alexander Tapia Bolaños makes his final vows

Brother Hugo Alexander Tapia Bolaños made his perpetual profession in a Eucharistic celebration on Nov. 28 in the parish of Santa Teresita of the Carmelite Fathers in the capital of Colombia.

Norandina's provincial, Brother César Augusto Rojas, received his vows during the Mass celebrated by Father Wilson Durán, chaplain of Colegio Champagnat in Bogotá.

According to a statement from the province, "the scholasticate community and the Norandina province rejoice in sharing the joy of the perpetual profession of Br Hugo Alexander Tapia Bolaños."

His parents, teachers of the Colegio Champagnat, fraternities of Bogota, religious of other communities as well as friends and brothers of several cities participated in the celebration.

He belongs to the community of the scholasticate Brother Basilio Rueda, and he is about to finish his undergraduate studies in theology at the Pontifical Xavierian University, a Jesuit university.

He also coordinates the ministry of the Saint Marcellin Champagnat pastoral and service center of the Casa Loma neighborhood in Bogota.

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE CREATES DIRECTOR OF MARIST EDUCATION POSITION

West Central Europe has created the role of director of Marist education for its province and has appointed Aisling Demaison to this position.

This is one of the most significant appointments that has emerged from the Province Education Conference that was held in Guardamar, Spain, in June 2014. The role entails promoting Marist characteristic spirit in Marist and former Marist schools as well as supporting the establishment of local Marist groups, and coordinat-

ing activities in the province.

It also involves continuing to develop the network of schools that has been established in recent years, particularly through participation in the Marist Leadership Institute in the U.S. and the Province Education Conference.

Aisling, a former member of staff from Moyle Park College in Dublin, was until recently the deputy principal of an international school in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Province of West

Central Europe appointed her in line with the policy of involving and employing more lay people in key aspects of Marist life and mission.

Aisling has created some key sources of communication and social media for Marist Education in Marist West Central Europe:

www.maristeu.com

www.facebook.com/maristeducationeu

www.twitter.com/MaristEducation

BROTHERS AND YOUTH MARCH WITH 45,000 IN SYDNEY FOR CLIMATE



Youth from across Australia and several Brothers joined 45,000 Sydneysiders on Nov. 29 in marching to appeal for strong action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference currently taking place in Paris.

The Marist Youth Ministry team for the Province of Australia organised a group of Young Marists to participate in these manifestation. Over 600,000

people have taken to the streets in thousands of cities in 175 countries worldwide to call for a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

According to Brothers Daily News, the news bulletin of the Australia Province, the youth "have been inspired by the message of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, which calls each of us to care for our common home

and for all creation."

"As young Marists, we are attentive to the urgent needs of our time, future generations, and those of young people, especially the poor who are most impacted by climate change," it added.

The UN's Conference is being held in Le Bourget, a northeastern suburb of Paris, from Nov. 30 – Dec. 11. The youth's action was in response to a statement made by Cardinal Peter Turkson, the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the most prominent of Francis's advisers on climate issues.

"The message of 'Laudato Si' needs to be integrated into the active commitment of citizens who organise to make the Pope's message resonate in the halls of power and who demand courageous action on the part of leaders and negotiators in favour of the poor and of the planet," affirmed the Cardinal.

The Australia Province underscored that that message has been delivered clearly, and with the joy and enthusiasm of people whose hearts have been stirred.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - comunica@fms.it

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

YouTube channel:

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

Follow us:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmschampagnaten>

https://twitter.com/fms_champagnat