

## COMMUNITIES SHOULD 'FAVOUR LIFE AND SUPPORT FORMATORS'

### FORMATORS OF DISTRICT OF ASIA MEET IN CAMBODIA



Formators of the Asia District in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Formators of the district of Asia gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from Jan. 25 – 29 to reflect on the formation of brothers in the six countries that make up the district: Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Cambodia and two other countries.

The 13 brothers that took part reflected on the Colloquium on Initial Formation held in L'Hermitage in October, organised by the Secretariat Brothers Today.

The encounter, titled 'Colloquium on Formation,' took place in Thimay Pastoral Center of the diocese of Phnom Penh, close to the city's airport.

Participants included the district leader, Brother Juan Castro, and three other Brothers that he invited

to speak about their experiences of the L'Hermitage encounter.

These were Br Paul Kate of Australia, Br Nelson L. Beltrán of the Philippines and Br Alfredo Herrera of Manizana/Korea.

Other participants were the Brothers who came from different countries – Br Andrew Chang from Thailand and Br Francis Peter Amoako Attah and Br Maximiliano Meier Stiedl of Cambodia.

Br Henry Alexander Arokiasamy and Br Pepito Lala Mahong came from India, while Br Xavier Borrotón of Bangladesh.

Brothers Salvador Antonio Salinas Castellanos, Canísio José Willrich and Ismael Valls Pujol came from two oth-

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Feb. 8 – 13: the Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions is meeting in the general house, coordinated by general councillor Br Josep Maria Soterias.

Feb. 11: the encounter of the Conference of Superiors of the African continent ended in Nairobi. Participants included vicar general Br Joe McKee and general councillor Br Antonio Ramalho.

Feb. 8 – 11: the encounter of the Africa's Commission of Mission was held in Nairobi. Br João Carlos do Prado and Patrizia Coppola of the Secretariat of Mission, Angela Petenzi of FMSI.

Feb. 9: Br Hipólito Pérez, assistant director of the Secretariat Brothers Today, participated in the encounter of the European Commission of Vocational Youth Ministry in Alcalá, Spain.

Feb. 9 – 10: the European Commission of Mission met in Guardamar, with the participation of Br Miguel Ángel Espinosa, assistant director of the Secretariat of Mission.

Feb. 10 – 13: Br Chris Wills, the director of the Secretariat Collaboration for Mission, International, is visiting the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.

er countries.

They addressed the conclusions of the Colloquium on Initial Formation related to the main guidelines and principles that the Institute wants to give to the formation of the Brothers of today.

"It is not surprising that the group's reflection focused and emphasized the importance of giving effective attention on the quality of community and spiritual life of our communities," said Br Alfredo Herrera, one of the participants. "We hope they become authentic "ecosystems" that

support and develop life and favour the need to offer continuous and sustainable help for formators in their roles (and prepare new ones) being aware that, in some way or another, we all influence the formation," Br Alfredo told the general house press office.

Br Alfredo spoke about "the urgency of starting the elaboration and development of the highly emphasized formation itineraries for the brothers in charge of accompanying candidates to have clear lines of action in the process that each candidate has to live out."

## CHAMPAGNAT, ROSEY AND SAINT FERMIN FRATERNITIES

### SPAIN: COMMITTED TO THE MARIST MISSION IN SARRIGUREN



Our fraternities are characterised by the diversity of its members in their age, professions and life situations.

This has made us aware of how one can live the Marist charism from very different perspectives.

Discovering how one can live the Marist mission in many diverse fields is a great richness for everyone.

These fields vary from children and youth education in school, as well as business, health, justice, hospitality, parish and their own homes.

We have different origins – some come from a youth group that ended up being a fraternity that consolidated it.

Others were born from the dynamics of a school's parents and others, from a group of animators of groups that wanted to have room for growth in

the faith and in Marist life.

Since then and until now, we have lived together many events, and we have tried to convey what gives meaning to our being and our doing.

In our chronology, we can highlight many activities both in relation to the Marist school where we come from, and in supporting actions of solidarity.

These include supporting the annual campaign of the NGO SED (Solidarity education and development), volunteer work camps in different countries with the most vulnerable, collaborating with other voluntary associations of the city, those involved in parishes as catechists of children and youth and the formation of new marriages.

But we would like to review a special project that was born from us, from the reflected proposal, coor-

inated and organised by the three fraternities in response to the second provincial chapter that called us to be more present among the Montagne of today.

Mayte Ballaz and Brother José Luis Lázaro were present in this provincial chapter and they brought us the strength and the drive that they experienced in the chapter.

We had an encounter among the three fraternities to analyse and think of what we could do to be closer to the Montagne of today.

An initiative, which received the name of MAS Project (Marists Social Action), was born from this encounter.

The first proposal was to design a programme of educational support for children in vulnerable situations in the municipality where the school is located. Thanks to the fact that a

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ASSEMBLY OF ADEMAR

The Ordinary General Assembly of the Marist Alumni Association of Huelva (ADEMAR) in Spain was held on Feb. 10. Topics included activities and plan of action for 2016.

### PUC OF PORTO ALEGRE

A team of the Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul visited several universities of the United States and England in January together with the rector, Br Joaquim Clotet, creating programmes of exchange and promoting reciprocal agreements.

### MARCHA MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL

The regional encounter of MarCha took place in the Marist House "Maisonnette" in Guadalajara, Jalisco, from Jan. 21 - 23. Participants included Marists schools from Cocula, Tepatitlán, Ocotlán, Aguascalientes, Morelia and Guadalajara.

### MARIST PATRIMONY

A new session of the Diploma in Marist Spiritual Heritage of the University of M. Champagnat of Peru was held from Jan. 11 - 15. Its goal was to offer a space for investigation, formation and accompaniment for Marist Brothers and laity within that area of the course.

Brother, Br José Ignacio Hualde, was at that time the school's ministry coordinator, the area's social services were contacted for it to be available to all who needed some kind of educational support even if they were not from the school.

That is how academic support outside school hours for children was created, offering educational support even if they did or did not have learning or economic problems.

The support was taken on from the beginning by the school itself, and offers them a safe, welcoming and accompanied space that avoids them being on the street at inappropriate hours or alone at home.

Literacy sessions to learn Spanish were promoted for adult foreign

migrants by the social services of Sarriguren.

A campaign to gather Christmas toys to distribute to those families with a precarious economic situation was also established.

The fraternities promoted these activities and invited parents, teachers and the school's students to participate.

The school's ministry team helped establish these activities in order to have better coordination and reinforced its plan to give attention to the needy.

Some of the people of this team are members of one of the three fraternities of the Champagnat Movement.

## BROTHERS TODAY INTERAMERICAN SUBCOMMITTEE



The annual meeting of the Inter-American Subcommittee Brothers Today ended on Feb. 5 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, after a week of meetings and reflections shared among the six representatives of the provinces of the Americas.

The Subcommittee is an advisory team of the Inter-American Conference of Provincials (CIAP).

They analysed reports of two encounters made during 2015 inherent to the teamwork.

## ONLINE BULLETINS

- 10/02/2016: France - L'Hermitage Province: Bulletin [ΔΙΚΤΥΟ n° 30 - Janvier 2016](#)
- 09/02/2016: Canada - Canada Province. Bulletin: [Nouvelles en bref](#)
- 05/02/2016: Haiti - Canada Province. Bulletin: [Nouvelles en bref: la mission in Haiti](#)

## MARIST WORLD



Kenya: Nairobi, African Continent Conference Superiors & African Mission Commission



Samoa: Ash Wednesday at Saint Joseph School



Australia: Team of Marist solidarity



Syria: Aleppo, 'Skill School' - Educational programme for teenagers



Spain: Alcalá, ongoing formation for formators of the Province Ibérica



Spain: Guardamar, meeting of the European Mission Commission

These were regarding the Encounter of the vocational ministry in Guatemala in September and the International Colloquium on Marist Formation in L'Hermitage in October.

The meeting took the opportunity to review the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission of Brothers and Laity.

Participants also looked at the Plan of Initial and Ongoing Formation for Brothers aged between 40 and 60.

The Subcommittee examined the programme to be suggested at the Encounter of Formators which will be held this year from Oct. 31 - Nov 4 in Curitiba, Brazil.

Participants also completed a document on the Renewal of Community, which each administrative unit can use to send the Subcommittee Brothers Today the new experiences that nourish "a new way of being brothers."

It is clear that in relation to the es-



The Brothers Today Interamerican Subcommittee in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

sential topic in the initial formation, speaking about "Brothers" also means speaking about "lay".

The definition of the Marist lay vocation is a commitment...

The six members of the Subcommittee

are Brothers Luis Felipe González Ruiz (México Central), Bernard Baudin (Canada), Oscar Rafael Montenegro Cuevas (Santa María de los Andes), Carlos Rafael Vélez (América Central), Raúl José Schönfeld Hergenreder (Cruz del Sur) and Natalino Guilherme de Souza (Brasil Centro-Norte).

## BROTHER MERVYN PERERA TO BEGIN TERM IN AUGUST

### SOUTH ASIA RECEIVES NEW PROVINCIAL



The General Council appointed Brother Benterege Mervyn Percy Rohana Perera as the new provincial of South Asia, after studying the results of the province's consultation.

Br Mervyn, who will begin his first three-year mandate during the Pro-

vincial Chapter in August, will replace Brother Shanthi Linayage.

Superior General Brother Emili Turú made the announcement in a letter dated Jan. 26 addressed to the brothers of the South Asia province.

"I would like to thank Br Mervyn Perera for his openness and willingness to serve the Institute in this mission as Provincial," he stated. "The results of the consultation show clearly that he enjoys vast support from the Brothers of the Province."

"My sincere thanks also to Br Shanthi Linayage for his generosity and commitment to the animation and government of the Province over the past six years," added Br Emili.

Br Mervyn was born in Sri Lanka, the eldest of three children. He studied with the Marist Brothers in high

school and made his first vows in 1978.

He has worked as a teacher and administrator in Marist schools and was a formator of Marist aspirants.

Br Mervyn served as a missionary in Pakistan from 1993 – 1999, teaching at Sargodha Catholic High School and working as deputy principal of St Mary's High School in Peshawar.

He told the general house press office on Feb. 1 that he considers his time in Pakistan "as a special grace given by God to me to witness the Gospel values among Catholics and non-Catholics."

He was the deputy Provincial from 2001 – 2007 and 2010 – 2013 and now works as the economer for the South Asia Province.

## EDUCATION FOR SOLIDARITY: MARIST SOLIDARITY MISSION IN BRAZIL



In the last solidarity mission, in January of this year, it is estimated that **around 450 people took part**, including youths, collaborators and Marist brothers.



The goal of the Marist solidarity mission that has been taking place in the Province of Brasil Centro-Sur since 1985 is educating for solidari-

ty, within the perspective of mutual learning and dialogue, through immersion in social challenging situations, especially social vulnerability.

Young people aged 16 and from different groups (students and alumni of private schools, social units and the university) participated.

In the last solidarity mission, in January of this year, it is estimated that around 450 people took part, including youths, collaborators and Marist brothers.

In general, the activities of solidarity mission include visits to the places of the residents in the neighbourhoods so that missionaries and families share their life as well as educational workshops for children, adolescents and youths.

They also include rehabilitation of some common space, as a form of compensation to the community for the reception of the solidarity mission, and moments of spirituality and formation, centred in the exchange of economic analy-

sis, public politics and the guarantee system of rights.

The big wish of the Marists of the Brasil Centro-Sur Province with the promotion of an activity of this type is that participants incorporate solidarity when they return to their own environment.

The desire is that each time they do so with more intensity to their daily life: be it through a change in behavior; incorporating it to their life project; in formation as a humanised professional; collaborating with non-governmental organisations; participating in social movements, or even in other projects of volunteer work that are taking place in the whole world.

It is also hoped that a critical reflection is made to discover a lot of "whys" like, for example, the mechanisms that generate poverty or inequality and how to fight against them.

## SECRETARIAT OF MISSION RECEIVES NEW STAFF FOR PROJECTS

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The Institute's Secretariat of Mission has brought a new member on board to help coordinate its projects.

Patrizia Coppola joined the Institute on Feb. 1 with the hope of creating a liaison between the different levels engaged in the Secretariat's projects, especially for the New Models project.

"I am happy to be part of the Champagnat family and also of the Secretariat of Mission," she said. "I've arrived at a moment where there is a lot of work to be done and I'm also willing to learn."

Her field of expertise is business administration and is specialized in institutional organisational development and results based management.

"Sometimes you need a person from the exterior to bring a new perspective to help people work effectively in achieving results," Patrizia told the general house press office on Feb. 1. "I love communicating", she added. "I hope to be a bridge between different



levels of people involved in the project, not at a hierarchical level, but for the different stakeholders."

Before returning to her native Rome in 2015 after 27 years abroad, Patrizia worked for the Red Cross on the field in Haiti immediately after the earthquake in 2010.

She holds a Master of Law, Economy, and Management as well as a Master of European Legal Studies.

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